Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of Japanese lawmakers' plan to relocate U.S. troops from Futenma, Japan to the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Toyota Toll

Complaints of deaths connected to sudden acceleration in Toyota vehicles have surged in recent weeks, with the alleged death toll reaching 34 since 2000, according to new consumer data gathered by the government.

Business...Page 13

Taliban Counterattack

Taliban fighters stepped up counterattacks against Marines and Afghan soldiers in the militant stronghold of Marjah, slowing the allied advance to a crawl despite Afghan government claims that the insurgents are broken and on the run.

Asia...Page 15

24' On Hold

Production of the Fox network thriller "24" has been temporarily shut down so that star and executive producer Kiefer (KEE'-fur) Sutherland can undergo surgery.

Life & Style...Page 20

$10M in housing vouchers for CNMI sought. PAGE 2

Juvenile admits burglary, returns stolen items to woman. PAGE 6

Relocation of US troops to NMI not done deal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Japan's Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa on Friday downplayed the idea of relocating up to 4,000 U.S. troops from the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa to Tinian, even as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee said yesterday that the Commonwealth welcomes such relocation consideration "only if such plan is supported and approved by the U.S. federal government and the Department of Defense."

Kitazawa

Tinian is one of the major islands in the U.S. territory of the CNMI.

"We are by no means trying to entice the Japanese government to push for the relocation of a base in the CNMI as this is solely a decision that will be made by the U.S. government. The administration and the MIMC will respect and support any such decisions that are made," the Fitial administration

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GUEST SPEAKER

Rotary Club of Saipan president Kim Forrester, left, applauds as Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores expresses support to the club's signature annual fundraiser called the "Las Vegas Night," during the club's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan yesterday. Flores, the guest speaker at the club meeting, talked about his office's plans and ongoing projects, including the stray dog control program, street sign restorations, and beautification drives. *See related story on Page 3*

Boat crew rescues woman swept out to Ladder Beach

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The crew of a passing boat rescued an injured and stranded swimmer at the cliff line of Ladder Beach on Saturday afternoon.

Despite minor scratches on the legs Sharla Schroeder, 44, refused further treatment from medics.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said yesterday that the rescuers were the crew of Blue Sea Sports.

David said preliminary investigation showed that on Saturday at 3:30pm Schroeder and some friends were at the Ladder Beach where they decided to walk on the ledge.

Several minutes later into their walk, huge waves came crashing. Schroeder got swept out to the open water, while her friends managed to hold on to the rocks.

Schroeder tried to swim back to the ledges, but she was afraid that she might smash against the rocks. She decided to swim out to the sea.

See BOAT on Page 4

Fitial replaces Corrections chief

Aldan appointed 'special assistant for political affairs'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed yesterday his former senior policy advisor Ramon "Ray" C. Mafnas as the new commissioner of the Department of Corrections, replacing Dolores M. Aldan who approved the temporary release of a federal inmate in a human smuggling case to provide massage therapy to the governor on Jan. 8.

But Aldan was appointed to a new position under the Office of the Governor, which is that of special assistant for political affairs.

See FITIAL on Page 4

Haiti president: 3 years needed to move rubble

By KIRSTEN JOHNSON and CAROLINA CORREA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—It will take three long years to clear the rubble left by Haiti's devastating earthquake, said President Rene Pre-

See HAITI on Page 4

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper shakes hands with Haitian President Rene Preval as the two leaders begin a bilateral meeting in tents set up at the airport outside the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Monday, Feb. 15, 2010.

AP

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Local

$10M in housing vouchers for CNMI sought

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo (D-Saipan) is asking for a minimum of $8 million to $10 million in housing choice voucher program funding for the CNMI's low-income families in 2010.

In a phone interview, Crisostimo said he hopes the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will grant his request to help low-income families, many of them lost their jobs recently because of the downturn in the local economy.

"I think that $8 million to $10 million at the minimum is an appropriate amount," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Crisostimo also sent yesterday a letter to HUD Honolulu Field Office director Gordon Furutani, asking for an increase in appropriations for the CNMI's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program for 2010.

He said the CNMI currently has over 700 families on the waitlist for this housing assistance program because of "extreme economic hardships due to low income levels that are coupled with rising costs of basic needs, and the lack of sufficient healthcare and supportive services."

Crisostimo

"With the financial crisis, things have only gotten worse in terms our economy. So I would respectfully request that you consider the Commonwealth's need, not want, for additional funding," Crisostimo told Furutani.

The senator also pointed out that the CNMI program not only serves the local or indigenous indigent population, but also citizens from the Federated States of Micronesia. He said a major part of the program appropriation serves FSM citizens in the CNMI.

"The number of waitlist families continues to rise and as a legislator, I come before you seeking your assistance for an increased appropriation to address this very crucial matter that is facing our Commonwealth resident whom I feel have been shortchanged due to funds being shared with the residents of the FSM," he added.

The Section 8 Rental Voucher Program increases affordable housing choices for very low-income households by allowing families to choose privately owned rental housing that is decent, safe, and sanitary.

Under the program, the public housing authority generally pays the landlord the difference between 30 percent of household income and the public housing authority-determined payment standard which is about 80 to 100 percent of the fair market rent. The rent must be reasonable.

The household may choose a unit with a higher rent than the fair market rent and pay the landlord the difference or choose a lower cost unit and keep the difference.

KILILI AT HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL

U.S. Congress Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan poses with local entertainer Maggie Naputi at last weekend's Tinian Hot Pepper Festival. People from around the Marianas all flocked to the annual event held at the island's Tachongna Beach in celebration of the island's famous pepper, the Donni Sali.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Federal court gives atty. Arriola more time to prepare for trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday granted attorney Joseph Aldan Arriola's waiver of his right to a speedy trial.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set a new jury trial date of May 17, 2010 at 9am.

After the hearing that lasted only 10 minutes, Munson remanded the defendant into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Arriola appeared with court-appointed counsel Steven Pixley. The defendant stated he wished to waive his right to a speedy trial to allow them further time to review the evidence.

The original jury trial was set for March 1, 2010.

The U.S. government charged Arriola and former Rita Kaipat estate administrator Luis Pelisamen with wire fraud and money laundering for stealing over $600,000 from the estate's account.

Arriola was the then counsel of Pelisamen. Arriola fled to the Philippines, while Pelisamen was arrested and subsequently found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to pay a $625,775 restitution to the estate.

Philippine authorities arrested Arriola for being a fugitive in the U.S. on June 16, 2009 in the Philippines where he was then detained for five months.

The Philippine government deported Arriola to Saipan on Nov. 25, 2009. He has been in federal custody after Munson refused to grant him bail.

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Attorney for Petitioner
ROBERTO LORICA BOE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROBERTO LORICA BOE, Petitioner, v. MARIA THERESA BLAZA BOE Respondent.	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0548 ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD (7 CMC §1301)

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: **MARIA THERESA BLAZA BOE**

PURSANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed with the Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Complaint to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Complaint by contacting Petitioner's counsel or record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order To Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief of the Complaint.

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

Saipan mayor urged to act on 'security' of tourists, road problems

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The security of tourists and long-delayed improvement on the island's secondary roads were among the concerns raised to Saipan Mayor Donald Flores yesterday while he served as guest of the weekly Saipan Rotary Club meeting.

Flores, after delivering the updates on his campaign against stray animals and beautification programs, was bombarded by questions about his plans to solve rampant robbery and threat on the security of tourists frequenting Saipan's major spots.

"I am very committed to help solve these problems…and we're visiting our tourist sites now," he told Rotary members, pointing out that the mayor's office has begun its beautification projects in the sites and in the community.

Flores also didn't disclose his office's partnership with the Marianas Visitors Authority to help preserve and promote the tourism industry.

It was Rotary member Agnes McPhetres who recommended that Flores' office work with the Department of Public Safety in addressing concerns of "security" to tourists.

Some guests disclosed yesterday that more and more tourists have become victims of burglary and theft and cited the need for more police visibility in tourist hot spots.

Flores

Flores said the mayor's office is in the process of identifying "new sites" that can be developed as tourist spots to attract more visitors.

But the mayor did not elaborate where and how this can be done by his office, which he admitted is operating in a limited budget.

Flores was also urged to take a serious look on the condition of the secondary roads in many villages.

Rotarians pointed out that although the central government is responsible for the main village roads, the mayor's office can do a lot of things in improving the secondary roads especially when it comes to paving them.

Some members even expressed support for the mayor's office taking the responsibility on all roads—both major and secondary.

TRASH MAN
A man rides his bicycle with plastic bags of recyclable materials like aluminum cans Monday morning in front of the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

'82% of PSS counselors are highly qualified'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System posted a significant mark in the number of highly qualified school counselors it employed this school year, totaling to 82 percent as of yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that out of the 22 counselors assigned in public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, 18 are considered highly qualified and enjoy a salary based on HQC Compensation Plan adopted by the Board of Education.

Like public school teachers, among the requirements to be met by school counselors included a degree, Praxis tests, and counselors' certificates.

Depending on these requirements and the working experience, a public school counselor receives a minimum annual salary of $28,000 up to $47,000.

The same compensation was offered by PSS in its highly qualified teachers compensation schedule.

According to the American School Counselor Association, the ideal ratio of school counselor is one for every 250 students.

PSS, which has nearly 11,000 students this school year, admitted that it needs more counselors.

Saipan Tribune learned that the meager budget from local appropriation limited PSS' capability to get enough school counselors. However, through the state fiscal stabilization fund provided to the PSS this fiscal year, the system was allowed to restore and hire the needed teachers and counselors.

For Rebecca Flores, the PSS' school counselor awardee for 2010, counselors play a major role in the progress and development of every student in the school.

The requirements set to become highly qualified, she said, measure the professionalism and competency of each school counselor.

All teachers, school counselors, and administrators are all mandated to take Praxis 1. It is in the Praxis 2 tests that they take different courses such as school guidance counseling for school counselors, while elementary education on content areas are reserved for school teachers.

Flores said complying with all the HQC requirements means achieving professional competency, training, and educational qualification to perform the counseling job.

She described the role of counselors as advocates of students and as "eyes and ears" of schoolchildren.

Flores acknowledged the need for more school counselors on the islands' public schools.

Meanwhile, of PSS' over 500 classroom teachers, 71 percent are highly qualified and are receiving an annual salary between $28,000 and $47,000.

The remaining 29 percent are teachers who have yet to pass Praxis or awaiting results of the tests.

The U.S. Department of Education has given CNMI-PSS until July 2011 to comply with the highly qualified teachers mandate pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

RP Consulate General to open one Sunday every month

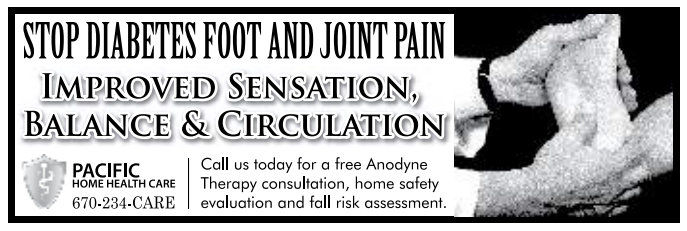
The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan will be open one Sunday every month starting February 2010.

"This is part of the improvement of services that the consulate is undertaking for the current year. Several Filipinos in the CNMI have indicated that they have difficulty in going to the consulate during weekdays due to their work schedules," a press release from the consulate read.

For the first six months of 2010, the Consulate General will be open on the following dates—Feb. 28, March 28, April 25, May 30, and June 27.

During these dates, the consulate shall observe its usual office hours from 9am to 4pm. "The Sunday schedule is another improvement after the Consulate General allowed the use of special mailing services of the U.S. Postal Service to obtain Philippine passports," the statement further read.

For the use of the mail to obtain passports, call the consulate for details. Personal appearance is still required in the application for passports. The schedule for the second half of the year will be announced later. ***(PR)***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Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

Cruise ships line up to visit Samoa

Four vessels bound for Apia

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer)—In Samoa, four cruise ships are set to grace the Apia waterfront starting with the P&O Line Cruise Ship *Arcadia*.

Local agents, Pacific Forum Line, say there will be 1,852 passengers and 873 crew members on board.

This is the maiden voyage for *Arcadia*. The Samoa Ports Authority (SPA) will be presenting a plaque to mark the occasion.

Tomorrow, another cruise ship *Saga Ruby* arrives.

Local agent Polynesian Shipping Line say the company has become fond of Samoa as a destination to sail to.

The influx of cruise ship visits is increasing with the number of firm bookings. It is evident of efforts by Samoa to promote our country as a destination during the Miami Seatrade Convention, Florida.

Another cruise ship, the *Balmoral*, is expected to arrive on 19 February. Transam Samoa Ltd is the local agent.

The fourth cruise ship is the MS *Albatross* which is being brought in by the Samoa Shipping Services (SSS).

"The economic benefits of not only much needed foreign exchange but also business as usual for the islands is sure to keep everyone busy for this month," the Samoa Ports Authority said in a statement.

"Samoa Ports Authority will be again setting up Handicraft and souvenir stalls on the wharf.

"Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) shall be providing the meet and greet with its STA dance troupe for the expected Cruise Ship visits.

"The continuous swells in the harbor and bad weather had affected the arrival of other cruise ships in the previous month which was unfortunate as the principals had to cancel at the last minute.

"It is hoped that good weather permit and that the people of Samoa will make our visitors feel welcome here in our beautiful islands as 2010 promises to be the year for Cruise Ship visits."

RELOCATION

From Page 1

said in a statement when asked for comment on the Futenma relocation issue.

Press Secretary Angel Demapan said Fitial and the MIMC will be open to any dialogue that the U.S. Department of Defense may want to engage in.

"However, any such dialogue would have to be at the request of the federal government," he said.

International media quoted Japan's Kitazawa as saying that Futenma's relocation to the CNMI could be considered as a "long-term issue."

He said, however, the views of the U.S. military on the relocation issue are important and that discussions are expected to take place on whether the necessary deterrence can be maintained in the Asia-Pacific region if all the Marine functions in Okinawa are transferred to Tinian.

Two-thirds of Tinian's land is leased to the U.S. military.

Three Japanese lawmakers who visited Saipan briefly on Feb. 10 told CNMI officials that they are considering the CNMI as one of relocation sites for 2,000 to 4,000 U.S. troops at Futenma.

In interviews with international media, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Hirano, who leads a government task force on the matter, also expressed little enthusiasm for the idea of relocating Futenma to Tinian. He said the task force has never discussed it before.

Japan had said it will reach a final conclusion by the end of May on where it wants to see the Futenma facility relocated, and a government committee has been exploring possible candidate sites, while Washington, D.C. maintains that a plan agreed upon by Japan and the United States in 2006 to move the Futenma base to a less densely populated part of Okinawa is the best option.

The three Japanese lawmakers who visited Saipan last week—Mikio Shimoji, Tomoko Abe, and Ryoichi Hattori—met with Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Saipan).

The three lawmakers were part of a 23-member Japanese government delegation who arrived in Guam for a "fact-finding" visit, particularly to see if there's suitable place on Guam for more U.S. troops to be relocated off Okinawa.

The up to 4,000 considered to be relocated to Tinian is in addition to the estimated 8,000 Marines and their 9,000 dependents who are expected to be relocated by 2014, although Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho asked for the military buildup to be delayed until after 2014.

Fitial and other CNMI officials last week said they welcome the relocation of U.S. troops to the Commonwealth provided the U.S. government consents to such move. This statement was repeated yesterday by the administration and the MIMC.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Mafnas' appointment as new corrections commissioner now heads to the Senate for advice and consent.

He is Fitial's ninth appointee needing Senate confirmation.

Just like the other Cabinet appointees, Mafnas will serve in an acting capacity until confirmed by the Senate.

Aldan's appointment, however, does not need Senate confirmation.

Aldan was among those who figured prominently in the "massage controversy" by allowing federal inmate QingMei Cheng, 28, to be released from prison in the early morning hours of Jan. 8 to relieve the governor of severe pain. Fitial described Cheng one of his best massage therapists.

But last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted Aldan's motions to quash the U.S. government's subpoenas and void the court order for an evidentiary hearing on Feb. 17, 2010 in connection with the temporary release of Cheng at the request of the governor.

Cheng was among 24 Chinese nationals arrested in January by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to sneak into Guam on a boat.

Munson said that key to the court's decision is its concern that it is being asked by the U.S. government to occupy an essentially "investigatorial" role in support of a motion that is "perhaps unavoidably, entirely speculative at this point in time."

Public hearings

Meanwhile, Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), in a phone interview yesterday, said the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations will start holding public hearings on the governor's appointees on March 2 and 3.

"We will entertain comments from the public on the governor's appointees. We will follow the order by which the governor appointed them so whoever was appointed first will be invited for the public hearing first, and so on," said Hofschneider, who is a member of the Senate EAGI Committee. The committee chairman, Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Press Secretary Angel A. Demapan said yesterday that Mafnas' appointment as Corrections commissioner is contrary to a report that appeared in yesterday's issue of another newspaper purporting that Aldan has been reappointed Corrections commissioner.

"It is my duty to correct misrepresentations made to the general public. That being said, it is also my responsibility to remind the people that all executive appointments are made by the governor, not the *Variety*," he said.

Mafnas, who has a criminal justice background, served as Fitial's senior policy advisor since he was first elected into office. He also served as acting Corrections commissioner acting commissioner for the Department of Public Safety.

Demapan said Fitial on behalf of Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos told Mafnas in his appointment letter that the administration "believe(s) in your skills and talents will be best served as the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections."

He said the Fitial administration is aiming to complete cabinet appointments in the coming days as a large portion of the performance review has been completed.

"In starting our second term, we face a crucial crossroad in revamping our Cabinet and taking our government in a direction best fitting the needs of our Commonwealth," Fitial said.

Fitial has so far appointed and reappointed nine Cabinet members needing Senate confirmation:

- Santiago F. Tudela, reappointed as Department of Public Safety commissioner.
- Martin C. Sablan, appointed as DPW secretary to replace Diego Songsong who stepped down in January to pursue studies off-island.
- Former Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, appointed new Department of Public Lands secretary to replace John S. DelRosario, who stepped down from his post.
- Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, reappointed secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.
- Adam Hardwicke, reappointed Public Defender.
- Melvin L.O. Faisao, reappointed as secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.
- Michael Ada, reappointed secretary of the Department of Commerce.
- Isidro K. Seman, reappointed director of the Office of Personnel Management.
- Ramon "Ray" C. Mafnas, appointed commissioner of the Department of Corrections.

BOAT

From Page 1

After a few minutes, a Blue Sea Sports vessel came and its crews rescued the stranded swimmer.

DPS received a call at 4:28pm from a woman who reported about the stranded swimmer at Ladder Beach.

While Boating Safety personnel were in the process of launching their rescue boat they called the Emergency Management Office dispatcher to call out an all points bulletin alerting on any vessel close to Ladder Beach about the stranded swimmer.

While Boating Safety personnel were responding to the call, they overheard at 4:47pm through a VHF radio that a Blue Sea Sports vessel had rescued the swimmer and was heading to Sugar Dock.

David said Boating Safety officers arrived at Sugar Dock at 5:17pm where they met Schroeder, the rescuers, and fire personnel.

HAITI

From Page 1

val who admitted even he's still afraid to sleep under concrete in case another quake strikes.

In a rare exclusive sit-down interview, Preval told Associated Press Television News on Monday that Haiti faces a long reconstruction process that will result in fewer people living in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

"It will take 1,000 trucks moving rubble for 1,000 days, so that's three years. And until we move out rubble, we cannot really build," Preval said.

Sitting in the airport police station that serves as the country's temporary government headquarters, Preval calmly laid out the difficulties of rebuilding an impoverished country amid aftershocks and the threat of more earthquakes.

He said the government has destroyed some hastily rebuilt structures in the capital, but he said that until alternative housing plans can be completed, the government's ability to regulate reconstruction will be limited.

Asked about residents' assertions that local corruption has interfered with the international aid effort, he replied: "It is possible that there have been irregularities."

"However," he said, "I should point out that the government isn't the direct manager of most of this humanitarian assistance."

He referred further questions to relief organizations and local and international governments engaged in food distribution.

International aid groups have taken pains to at least make Haiti's government the titular head of the relief. But district mayor's offices in Port-au-Prince have been put in control of some food coupon distribution, and some irregularities have been reported.

The president, whose five year term is scheduled to end next year, has rarely spoken publicly with his own people in the weeks since a magnitude-7 earthquake pummeled Haiti's capital city on Jan. 12.

More than 200,000 people were killed. The presidential palace and his own private residence were destroyed, as were most government buildings and the headquarters of a 9,000-member U.N. peacekeeping force that guarantees his security.

Since then, Preval said Monday, he has been staying with friends until a "light, earthquake-proof" structure can be built to replace his home.

"Like you, I am nervous to be under cement," he said.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Monday said his country will spend up to $12 million to build Haiti's government a temporary base to replace official buildings damaged in the quake.

Despite Haitians' desperate need for shelter, many abandoned houses that survived the quake still stand empty because nobody is quite sure they can withstand another quake.

At least 54 aftershocks have shuddered through Haiti's shattered capital since Jan. 12. They have toppled weakened buildings faster than demolition crews can get to them, sending up new clouds of choking dust. On Monday, three children were killed when a school collapsed in the northern city of Cap-Haitien. It wasn't clear what caused the collapse, which occurred after a late-night tremor and heavy rains.

"I tried sleeping in the house for a night, but an aftershock came and I ran outside," said Louise Lafonte, 36, who beds down with her family of five in a tent beside her seemingly intact concrete house. "I'm not going inside until the ground calms down."

That may be awhile. Seismologists say more, damaging aftershocks are likely and there's even a chance of another large quake following quickly after the initial catastrophe in the capital of 3 million people.

In 1751, a large quake hit the island that Haiti shares with the Dominican Republic. About a month later, another one destroyed Port-au-Prince.

A magnitude-7.4 quake that killed more than 18,000 people in northwestern Turkey in 1999 was followed three months later by another of magnitude-7.2 only 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the initial epicenter.

"There are many other examples like that of two significant earthquakes following each other," said Eric Calais, a geophysicist at Purdue University who said he warned the Haitian government two years ago that the country was vulnerable to a major quake.

The prospect of another quake is on the minds of planners trying to rebuild the country and on those trying to prevent more deaths.

U.N. inspectors have advised people to stay away from dozens of structures.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimated at the end of January that there was a 90-percent likelihood of at least one more magnitude-5 quake in the coming month, a 15 percent likelihood of one of magnitude-6 or greater, and a 2 percent possibility of a shock as great, or bigger, than the Jan. 12 quake.

Check signing for airport, seaport transactions tightened

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To properly safeguard the operation of the cash-strapped Commonwealth Ports Authority, the board has tightened the control of its finances by requiring six signatory members in all agency transactions.

Last Friday, three members each from the management and the board were named the official signatories in all CPA checks.

They included board chairman Jose Lifoifoi, vice chairman Thomas Villagomez, secretary Margaret Prater, executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, acting comptroller Derek Sasamoto, and seaport manager MaryAnn Lizama.

The six names supersede all the previous names approved by the board.

Saipan Tribune learned that the board requires the signatories of all three board members in all transactions $10,000 and above, while those less than the amount will be taken care of the signatories from the management level.

The board also approved a supplemental budget of $439,352 for two ongoing projects of the CPA—the baggage handling system and the incinerator project.

Acting board chairman Thomas "Kiyu" Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* that from the amount, $389,623 was approved for Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting Inc.'s incinerator project.

He revealed that the company proposed an extension of its contract to close the project in July this year.

The board acknowledged during the meeting that if not for the work done by APEC, the ports authority may have been fined up to $30 million by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of noncompliance.

"The supplemental budget we approved for APEC is part of the original contract it signed by CPA in 2008," Villagomez explained.

He said APEC is due to submit its project report to EPA on June 25.

Meanwhile, the board also approved a supplemental budget of $49,729 for the contractor of the baggage handling system—Vander Lande Industries.

The company was approved a nine-month $445,000 contract to fix the mechanical deficiencies of the BHS last month.

According to Saipan airport manager Ed Mendiola, all deficiencies have been corrected to date and awaiting the Transportation Security Administration's response to the report for the equipment certification.

CPA, he said, has now a dedicated personnel assigned in the operation of the new baggage handling system.

The baggage handling system is expected to speed up operations at the departure and check-in counters of the airport. Long lines will be eliminated that would give tourists and passengers ample time to visit the airport's concessionaires.

Once fully operational, all scanners will be removed from the counters. Instead, luggage will run through the explosives detection system and baggage handling system as part of the screening process.

NMC staff in machete attack posts $10,000 cash bail

Northern Marianas College employee Franklin S. Crisostomo was released yesterday from jail after he posted $10,000 cash bail in connection with the charges he attacked a staff of the Commonwealth Health Center with a machete along Middle Road.

At a bail modification hearing, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman granted Crisostomo his temporary liberty with some conditions.

Wiseman set the arraignment for Feb. 22.

Attorney Brien Sers Nicholas served as counsel for Crisostomo. Assistant Attorney General Joseph Przyuski appeared for the CNMI government.

Last week, associate judge Perry B. Inos found probable cause to warrant the filing of six charges against Crisostomo.

Inos found probable cause to believe that the crimes of assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, disturbing the peace, criminal contempt of court, and violating an order of protection were committed.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that the victim Thomas Asack and Crisostomo had a past sexual relationship.

Asack at the time worked at CHC as a respiratory therapist. He reportedly fled to the U.S. mainland after the attack.

Manacop said Thomas wished to end his relationship with Crisostomo and that on Jan. 13, 2010, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo granted an order of protection for Asack.

Police said that, last Jan. 31 at 11:40am the Department of Public Safety received a call about a disturbance along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MARIANAS BIKINI OPEN HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Kurt Deon Oco and Diana Jean Castro parade their evening wear in the Marianas Bikini Open competition at the Hard Rock Café Saipan on Friday night. Castro won the major title among female contestants, while Oco was fourth runner-up among male contestants.

★★★ATTENTION★★★
CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

As of January 1, 2010, your Group Life Insurance Benefit offered through the CNMI Government is provided by Individual Assurance Company.

All eligible CNMI Government employees and retirees must re-enroll by February 26, 2010.

You may re-enroll through your Human Resources office. IAC will also be facilitating re-enrollment meetings at the office of Don Barcinas beginning **Tuesday, February 16, 2010.**

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Beach Road, Garapan
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REQUEST for PROPOSALS
MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
RFP #10-02

INVESTMENT in a LOCAL HIGH YIELD PORTFOLIO

This is a request for any and all investment proposals from interested parties or firms seeking capital sources or funding for projects or ventures within the CNMI.

MPLT Trustees has recently updated its Asset Allocation and determined that a percentage (5%) of its total investment portfolio ($3.137 million) shall be devoted to a local investment program. This local investment program will be designated as high yield investments since the associated risks are much higher than those of publicly traded investment grade securities. The reasons for this are as follows:

- Challenges to obtaining sufficient capital for projects or ventures.
- Associated promissory notes cannot be traded or sold thus have no liquidity.
- Associated promissory notes are not rated and considered less than investment grade.
- Often the local private or public sector proposer's ability to repay the loan is challenged.
- Credit rating for such borrowers is often low.
- Ability to raise capital or obtain credit is limited.
- Maximum exposure for each investment cannot be controlled.
- Sufficient collateral beyond those acquired with loan proceed is limited.

As a high yield investment, MPLT may limit the duration to a preferred five years term but longer term may be considered. This is not a low-income or low interest rate program. Interest rates will be determined based upon risk and duration. Due to the higher risks associated with this type of investment, a risk premium will be added to the base interest rate.

Proposal information and guidelines under this program can be obtained at the MPLT office as shown below. Further, as part of the fee, MPLT shall include fees for servicing costs, legal review fees, consult review fees. Therefore, each applicant shall be charged a non-refundable application fee of $500 by Cashier's Check or Money Order, due upon submission of the application. Each proposer shall agree to and shall pay an origination fee of 1% on the approved investment amount, for the closing/administrative costs for any approved proposal.

Ten (10) copies plus one original of the sealed proposals must be submitted to the MPLT Office, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 2:00 PM, on March 3, 2010. Proposals must be sealed and marked "Local High Yield Investment Program, RFP 10-02". Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The MPLT reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in its best interests. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the MPLT.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman

$21K travel allowance for CPA execs OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Travel allowance worth $21,700 for executives of the Commonwealth Ports Authority was approved by the agency's board of directors last Friday.

The amount was recommended by finance committee chairman Barrie Toves and includes both seaports and airport travel expenditures from October 2009 through September 2010.

Prior to voting, acting board chairman Thomas "Kiyu" Villagomez cited his concern on approving the figure as a result of the travel freeze ordered by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on all government agencies and departments.

Then-comptroller Frances Mafnas disclosed that the budget allocation for travel expenditures may not be entirely used for the purpose and if necessary could be reprogrammed to other operational costs of the agency.

It was pointed out that despite the travel ban, CPA must adhere to other federal agency requirements in connection with its bonds and grants.

"There are specific meetings that are mandatory for our seaport or airport managers to attend to. Approving this travel allocation would not mean that CPA will entirely use it for the purpose. It could also be reallocated to other purpose [if necessary]," Mafnas explained to the board.

The recently retired comptroller assured that all travel requests will go to the board's attention for approval.

CPA Executive Director Edward Deleon Guerrero described the budget as the "best CPA budget" in the past years.

Because of the low revenue projections this fiscal year, CPA was forced to reduce by eight hours the working schedule of all its employees including managerial positions starting on April 1 through end of fiscal year in September.

Fiscal year 2010's projected airport revenue is $10.4 million while $6.7 million is the forecast revenue for seaport operations.

At the airport side, CPA is making money on the fees collected from signatory airlines and tenants and concessionaires at airport facilities, while seaport revenues are sourced from the wharfage fees it collect from the use of the ports facilities.

The projected revenue of $17.1 million in FY 2010 is the amount used by CPA in its operation and personnel cost. Funding for the various airport projects are yielded from the grants provided by the Federal Aviation Administration and other granting agencies.

Saipan Tribune learned that this is the third time that the agency will implement an across-the-board salary reduction. To date the agency has a total of 192 employees in three islands.

After the discussion, the board unanimously agreed to notify the governor on the travel allocation approved by the CPA board.

Also acted upon was the $15,874 reimbursement amount billed to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Juvenile admits to burglary, returns stolen items to woman

Police arrested over the weekend a woman who allegedly received assorted jewelry, a laptop, and other items stolen by a juvenile during a burglary at a residence in Kagman III.

Police served the arrest warrant on Saturday afternoon in Kagman III to Dawn Maria B. Castro for receiving stolen property.

The 34-year-old Castro was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for her initial appearance hearing.

Associate Judge David Wiseman imposed a $500 cash plus $9,500 unsecured bond for the defendant's temporary release.

A Department of Public Safety detective stated in his report that last Feb. 10 police received a call about a burglary and theft incident at a residence along Pine Drive in Kagman III.

The detective said stolen from the residence of Melvin and Lynie Cabrera were a brand new Sony VAIO laptop, necklace, ring, earrings, assorted gold jewelry, and other items, all valued at $2,600.

The detective said that last Feb. 11, a juvenile confessed to police he was responsible for the burglary.

The juvenile admitted he gave the stolen items to Castro, who would bring the items to a pawnshop.

That same day, detective Jesse Dubrall seized the stolen Sony VAIO laptop from Bonds Computer Land and Accessories. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

STUDY TIME, PLAY TIME
Students spend leisure time playing video games at Northern Marianas College's Student Center in As Terlaje. The NMC Student Center is equipped with other resources such as pool table, computers, lounge area, and reading materials.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

DEADLINE EXTENSION TO THE REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

To Participate in Zoning Office's Island-Wide Junk Car Removal & Recycling Program

The Zoning Office has extended the deadline to receive Expressions of Interest for the removal of junk vehicles by qualified towing and recycling operations. Responding companies must be willing to pick up any and all junk vehicles identified and processed by the Zoning Office at no charge to the CNMI government. It is estimated that there are as many as 18,000 junk vehicles on the island of Saipan.

All companies wishing to register for this program must have a valid recycling permit from the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality.

Please include in your Expression of Interest a description of your firm's operations, permits and number of vehicles that can be taken per month. Interested companies need to be willing to take large and small vehicles in any condition.

The Zoning Office will take every qualified company that submits an Expression of Interest, but reserves the right not to select any of the responding companies for the program. The Zoning Office will publish the approved list of the selected company or companies and advise the public of the start of the program. The Zoning Office will provide an equal number of vehicles to each approved company on a rotating schedule to be determined.

Submissions should be clearly marked "Expression of Interest – Junk Car Removal"

Format of submission

- On 8 1/2" x 11" on company letterhead
- One electronic file version in PDF, MS Word or MS PowerPoint format, by email to staff@zoning.gov.mp (use subject line: "Junk Vehicle Program")

Where and when to submit and questions
Address your questions, the Expression of Interest and other correspondence to:

Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan
US Mail: Zoning Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp

Attn: Junk Vehicle Program.

Proposals must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, Friday, February 19th , 2010.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation for Bid PSS IFB 10-008

"Public Sale of Used Electrical Materials on Tinian"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the "Sale of Used Electrical Equipment such as Transformers, Meter Boxes, Copper Wire and High Tension Wire". PSS no longer needs equipment following the completion of an Electrical Upgrade Project on the grounds of Tinian Jr/Sr. High School.

A listing of Equipment for sale may be obtained by calling the PSS Procurement Property & Inventory Control Officer Alkantro Sarapio, PSS Property & Inventory Control Officer on 237.3068 or 483.9118. Prospective Buyers may also contact Mr. Sarapio to arrange for an inspection of the equipment on Tinian.

Bidders may bid on some, or all, items. Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"PSS IFB 10-008"** containing one (1) original and two (2) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building no later than March 10, 2010 at 10:30 AM.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Live fire training scheduled at FDM

The U.S. Air Force and Japan Air Self Defense Force will conduct live-fire training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 17 from 8:20am to 5:30pm-Feb. 18 from 8am to 5:30pm

■ Feb. 19 from 8am to 1pm

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and dates indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-3209. ***(PR)***

DCCA Child Care Program opens for new applicants

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Program continues to conduct pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants under the ARRA funds. The pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations:

■ Garapan Street Market on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010 between 6m and 8pm.

■ Kagman Community Center "Puengin Inetnon," Feb. 26, 2010 between 5pm and 7pm.

■ DCCA Child Care Program Office ongoing Monday to Thursday, between 9am and 3pm and Fridays 9pm to 12pm.

Parents and/or legal guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility assessment and will need to bring the following:

■ Three (3) latest checkstubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours by-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings (both parents)

■ Most recent 1040 tax (both parents)

■ School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credit)

■ Training schedule (must have at least 60 training hours bi-weekly)

Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Capital Hill. All applications picked up at the Garapan Street Market and the Kagman Community Center will be due on or before March 5, 2010 at 12pm. Incomplete applications as well as applications turned in after this date and time will not be accepted.

Forward all applications to: DCCA Child Care Program Office, Building No. 1347 Capital Hill, Saipan. Or for more information, call 664-2575. ***(PR)***

MIFICPA tax seminar on Feb 20

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will conduct a tax seminar on Feb. 20 at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel. Registration starts at 7:30am. The tax seminar will cover "Individual Tax Savings Tips for 2009." Edgar T. Aguilar, manager for Tax Services of Deloitte & Touche LLP, will be the resource person for the seminar. Participants will have the chance to raise questions on tax matters to maximize money saving measures in filing their 2009 individual and corporate tax returns. Registration fee per participant will be $12, which covers light breakfast and participant's certificate. Seminar materials will be provided. Renewal of MIFICPA's $5 annual membership dues will be collected on the day of the event only. For new members, the same fee applies. Seats are limited, so for advance reservation and for more information, contact any of the MIFICPA officers by either text or e-mail: Marlon Estigoy at 789-7943 (marlon@saipan.com); Christy Villaflor at 989-9123 (villaflor_chris@yahoo.com; Aileen Indino at 287-0305 (aileenrindino@yahoo.com); and Melvin Malvar at 789-2101(mjmalvar@yahoo.com). ***(PR)***

Autism Society meeting on Feb. 20

The Autism Society of the CNMI will hold its monthly meeting on Saturday, Feb. 20, 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Nominations now open for 2010 RP Presidential Awards

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan announced that nominations are now open for the Year 2010 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas. The Presidential Awards is a biennial search to recognize exception individuals and organizations for their understanding contribution to Philippine progress and development. The awards are also conferred on overseas Filipinos who have shown excellence in their work or profession. Instituted in 1991, it has so far conferred on 314 overseas-based individuals and organizations. Interested parties may submit their nominations to the Philippine Consulate General at the 5th floor, Marianas Business Plaza. Copies of the primer containing the rules and guideline for the Presidential Awards, as well as nomination and endorsement forms are available at the consulate. The completed nomination forms with supporting documents, will be forwarded by the consulate to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas before the May 30, 2010 deadline. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

GOLDEN BIRTHDAY

Happy golden birthday to mother dearest Lourdes Valenzuela and many more birthdays to come. Love always, from your girls and your familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TURNING 10

Happy 10th birthday to Collins Drake Borja Flores and many more birthdays to come. From Mommy, Daddy, Keolani, Keerah, Kyle, and the rest of the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIRST BIRTHDAY

Happy first birthday to Patty Ann. Lots of love from Mommy, Daddy, Brandie, Ate Luz, and Papa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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FISG reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All vehicle are sold "AS IS" with no Warranties, Expressed or Implied.

Deadline for bidding is on Friday, February 26, 2010.

For more information, contact Diego Masga, Collection Department at 234-5706 or 234-8615

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	033E	2/6 Sat	2/4 Thu	2/4 Thu	2/2 Tue	1/30 Sat	2/12 Fri	2/8 Mon	2/7 Sun	1/31 Sun	1/31 Sun	2/8 Mon	2/12 Fri	2/14 Sun	2/16 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	026E	2/13 Sat	2/11 Thu	2/11 Thu	2/9 Tue	2/6 Sat	2/19 Fri	2/15 Mon	2/14 Sun	2/7 Sun	2/7 Sun	2/15 Mon	2/19 Fri	2/21 Sun	2/23 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	005E	2/20 Sat	2/18 Thu	2/18 Thu	2/16 Tue	2/13 Sat	2/26 Fri	2/22 Mon	2/21 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/22 Mon	2/26 Fri	2/28 Sun	3/2 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	034E	2/27 Sat	2/25 Thu	2/25 Thu	2/23 Tue	2/20 Sat	3/5 Fri	3/1 Mon	2/28 Sun	2/21 Sun	2/21 Sun	3/1 Mon	3/5 Fri	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/6 Sat	3/4 Thu	3/4 Thu	3/2 Tue	2/27 Sat	3/12 Fri	3/8 Mon	3/7 Sun	2/28 Sun	2/28 Sun	3/8 Mon	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	3/16 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/13 Sat	3/11 Thu	3/11 Thu	3/9 Tue	3/6 Sat	3/19 Fri	3/15 Mon	3/14 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/15 Mon	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	033E	2/20 Sat	2/21 Sun	2/21 Sun	2/23 Tue	2/24 Wed	2/26 Fri	2/28 Sun	SKIP	3/5 Fri	3/6 Sat	3/11 Thu	3/30 Tue	3/14 Sun	3/10 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	026E	2/27 Sat	2/28 Sun	2/28 Sun	SKIP	3/3 Wed	3/5 Fri	3/7 Sun	SKIP	3/12 Fri	3/13 Sat	3/18 Thu	4/6 Tue	3/21 Sun	3/17 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	005E	3/6 Sat	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue	3/10 Wed	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/19 Fri	3/20 Sat	3/25 Thu	4/13 Tue	3/28 Sun	3/24 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	034E	3/13 Sat	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/17 Wed	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	SKIP	3/26 Fri	3/27 Sat	4/1 Thu	4/20 Tue	4/4 Sun	3/31 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/20 Sat	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue	3/24 Wed	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	SKIP	4/2 Fri	4/3 Sat	4/8 Thu	4/27 Tue	4/11 Sun	4/7 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/27 Sat	3/28 Sun	3/28 Sun	SKIP	3/31 Wed	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	SKIP	4/9 Fri	4/10 Sat	4/15 Thu	5/4 Tue	4/18 Sun	4/14 Wed

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Tinian Chamber of Commerce to hold general membership meeting tomorrow

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce will be holding its 2009 Annual General Membership Meeting on tomorrow, Feb. 18, at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino (Tinian Room) at 10am.

Members of the Tinian business community as well as those from Saipan, Rota, and Guam are encouraged to attend the annual meeting to elect officers and board members for the 2010 year.

Agenda items for the meeting will be a review of the 2009 year by president and chairman of the board, Phillip Mendiola-Long, a briefing on the official comments of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce for the Military Draft Environmental Impact Statement, setting goals and training schedules for 2010, and a financial report for 2009.

"Membership to the Tinian Chamber of Commerce has grown to surprising numbers and we are encouraged by the interest to join our organization. Although a predominant number of chamber members are from Tinian, in recent months, the chamber has been approached by companies interested in the build-up in the region and willing to join our organization for the information we provide our members. In fact, in order to make foreign membership easier and to meet demand for information and research, the 2009 Board of Directors approved the chamber's first website which is now in development by Angil Designs. We are hoping to get the website up an running by the end of this month, which will make it easier for members abroad to join our organization and have access to our research and training presentations," said Mendiola-Long.

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce currently has over 50 members with membership only costing $10 per month or $120 per year. Membership benefits include access to research material related to business in the region, access to monthly trainings and guest speakers relevant to issues facing Tinian and the region, collaboration and unity of business policy message on behalf of the business community, and direct access and networking with U.S. federal and CNMI local government officials.

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce also boasts the networking availability of large U.S. and foreign businesses seeking to partner with local companies in the region.

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce is also a founding member of the Council of Micronesian Chambers of Commerce and is directly linked with the Saipan and Guam chambers of commerce. ***(PR)***

APAFS' Country Conferences schedule set

HAGATNA, Guam—The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies has set a schedule for its 2010 Country Conferences around the region. The dates and locations are:

- Palau Country Conference, April 27 - Ngarachemayong Cultural Center
- Yap FSM Country Conference, April 29 - Yap SBDC Conference Center
- Saipan NMI Country Conference, April 30 - Fiesta Resort Saipan
- Pohnpei FSM Country Conference, May 4 - COM FSM Main Campus Multi Purpose Room
- Marshall Islands Country, May 6 - RMI International Convention Center

One important topic at the Country Conferences will relate to Global Investment Performance Standards.

Daniel A. Roland, executive director of the association, said attendees at the country conferences will be updated on developments regarding this important field. "Association members are incorporating Global Investment Performance Standards. Most recently members agreed to incorporate GIPS into such important documents as Requests for Proposals, keeping the Asia Pacific Subcommittee well in line with other regional groups."

The Asia Pacific Regional Investment Performance Subcommittee met in October 2009 in Singapore. Subcommittee members communicate throughout the year. The Asia Pacific Subcommittee is represented on various technical subcommittees.

Aside from the association—which is the official sponsor of GIPS for Micronesia, member organizations include the CFA [Chartered Financial Analyst] Association of Pakistan; the Security Analyst Association of Japan; the Australia-based Investment and Financial Services Association, Performance Analyst Group; the CFA Society of New Zealand, the Hong Kong Society of Financial Analysts, the Korea GIPS Committee and the Investment Management Association of Singapore. Interest has been expressed from other countries such as Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia and China.

The GIPS Executive Committee will meet in Lisbon in Portugal in March 2010.

Roland said, "The next GIPS Executive Committee Chair will come from our region, which will help focus the spotlight on progress we have made in elevating fiduciary standards in our geographic area. Also, in March, the Asia Pacific Subcommittee will not only report on progress in our region, but will have an opportunity to network on behalf of and promote our region. Gatherings such as the March GIPS meeting encourage experts from other areas to take an interest in the Micronesia region. We hope that some of them will be drawn to the Pacific Region Investment Conference."

The 2010 Pacific Region Investment Conference will take place on Oct. 14 and 15 in Manila. Conferences typically attract several hundred attendees. Roland said, "APAFS members tend to be institutional investors with significant political connections as well as significant financial sway. Having all of them together at an annual conference is an opportunity to underline the best practices of fiduciaries. Having the support and knowledge of GIPS to draw on is invaluable in delivering that message."

For more information, log on to www.apafs.org.

APAFS is a non-profit educational association with the aim of providing educational forums for fiduciaries in the region. It was formed by a forward thinking group of fiduciaries throughout Asia in 2000. ***(PR)***

CRA meeting on Feb. 25

The Commonwealth Retirement Association will have a meeting on Feb. 25, 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building in Susupe.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Board actions/minutes.
- CRA Board intervention in Judge Govendo's with respect to Judge Munson's order.
- CRA Board supports Mario Taitano Suit against Merrill Lynch.
- NMIRF Administrator on fund policies and actions undertaken.
- CRA By-laws requested amendments.
- Membership Legislation/ Drive.
- Other Matters.

For more information, call CRA chairman Juan M. Sablan at 256-5877. ***(PR)***

ISLAND AVIATION DONATION

Precinct 1 Rep. Joseph M. Palacios, left, and Eliceo D. Cabrera, right, are shown receiving a donation of $500 on behalf of the Dandan Neighborhood Watch from Yasushi Shimazu, center, chief executive officer of Island Aviation, Inc. The donation will enable the neighborhood watch to purchase a bush cutter to clear roadsides in Precinct 1. This will make the precinct safer, as well as help beautify the area. Island Aviation is a new CNMI corporation which is opening a flight school on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 17, 1999

Congressman Miller had preconceived mission

California Congressman George Miller is known throughout these islands for his purported stance on human rights issues. That the indigenous people are predominantly conservative Catholics, they were ready to listen intently to his words as a staunch human rights advocate. Hardly anybody knew that the California Congressman was here with a preconceived agenda, not to mention his clever use of human rights issues to shield his real motive.

Legislation needed for education tax credits

A provision to specifically direct contributions to instruction is needed to regulate the proceeds derived from the educational tax credit, according to Rep. Karl Reyes, chairman of the ways and means committee. He made this proposal following campaigns launched by both public and private schools to chase the dollars of tax payers in the name of education. "The school is at liberty to use the money, no matter how they use it," he said. He expressed concerns over the use of these contributions other than instruction . "For the private schools, they might use those donations to religious instruction which is not the intent of the government," he said, adding "that would be the gray area because even the Federal government does not allow private schools to use federal programs under religious instruction."

Feb. 17, 2000

Travel binge cost taxpayers $6.5-M in '97

The CNMI government spent over $6.5 million for 2,813 overseas travels and 5,740 trips within the Northern Marianas in Fiscal Year 1997, most of which were improper and not related to official business. Based on the findings of the Office of the Public Auditor, the Executive Branch during the administration of former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio spent $2.6 million in overseas trips and $511,846 in travels within the CNMI. The Public School System came second with total expenses of $674,213 in off-island trips. Third on top of the list was the Commonwealth Ports Authority, which used to be one of the biggest revenue generating autonomous agencies, spent $448,693 in overseas travels.

Gov't plans to hire lobbyists in DC

In renewed attempts to block federalization of local immigration and minimum wage control, the CNMI government is now in the process of identifying resources that will fund efforts to hire professional lobbyists in Washington D.C. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio discussed with members of the 12th CNMI Legislature the possibility of hiring an advocacy firm to strengthen Commonwealth efforts aimed at stopping intensified attempts by the U.S. Congress to pave the way for a federal takeover of local immigration and minimum wage. Mr. Tenorio yesterday acknowledged the CNMI's inevitable need to have a lobbying arm in Washington D.C. amid the U.S. Senate's passing of a legislation sponsored by Alaska Senator Frank H. Murkowski.

Feb. 17, 2003

TDHC officer is Chinese beauty queen

Zhang Yan of the Human Resource Department of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino was crowned Saturday night as premier beauty queen for the Year of the Water Goat of the Saipan Chinese Association. Zhang Tong and Jenny, both of Saipan, were first and second runner-ups, respectively. In a standing room only crowd at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel's 500-person capacity ballroom, GM Tom Liu supervised the logistical requirements of the Chinese beauty contest that had eight Chinese ladies from Saipan and Tinian vying for the honorific title. Displaying stage presence, verbal skills, performance talent, and intellectual prowess, the statuesque contestants were judged by a five-person panel of reigning Ms. CNMI International Cristina Cunanan, Ms. CNMI Universe Virginia Gridley, and SCA leaders Ta Bun Kuy, Alan Tsang and Tony Lim.

Dialysis centers on Tinian, Rota in the offing?

Following the lifting of federal sanctions against him, Dr. Vicente Aldan now looks forward to pursuing his long-overdue goal: to set up hemodialysis centers on Rota and Tinian. In a media briefing last week, Aldan said his company now awaits the signing of a loan agreement with the Marianas Public Lands Trust for the two projects amounting to $3.4 million. "We're now able to pursue our projects. We are on the verge of signing an agreement to build a first class dialysis center on Rota and Tinian. Once signed, we will do the construction in about three months from now. Hopefully, they would be finished before December," said Aldan, adding that these facilities would be opened ahead of the new dialysis facility on Saipan.

Pacific

Cyclone Rene pounds Tonga, major damage in capital

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (AP)—Tropical Cyclone Rene pounded Tonga with powerful winds overnight, causing major damage to buildings in the capital city, tearing off roofs, downing trees and cutting power and phone lines in the South Pacific island nation.

When phone service was restored early Tuesday, police said they had no immediate reports of death or injury during the storm that has hammered the three main island groups of the kingdom for more than 24 hours.

"There's widespread damage to crops... (and) to buildings," police commander Chris Kelley told New Zealand's National Radio. "Power has been off all night, there's trees across roads, plus power lines. There has really been quite a bit of devastation."

The nation's National Disaster Committee was meeting Tuesday to begin assessing damage nationwide, described by its deputy director Mali'u Takai as possibly the worst in 50 years.

Nuku'alofa businesswoman Lee Miller said the night was nerve-wracking.

"Our home is OK apart from some water leaks," she told National Radio. "There is severe tree damage, many power lines are down."

Miller said the capital's port area is "utterly devastated ... we're still getting big 50 knot (55 miles per hour, 88 kilometers per hour) gusts here and the sea is still coming over the sea wall," she told National Radio. She said that yachts and fishing vessels all appeared secure but one barge had been tossed up on a reef.

AP

A building at the Are Tamanu Resort on the atoll of Aitutaki in the Cook Island damaged after Tropical Cyclone Pat hit early Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010.

Cyclone forecasters in Fiji said that by midmorning the storm was 95 miles (155 kilometers) south of Nuku'alofa and its force was expected to deteriorate as it moved into open sea.

The cyclone had been downgraded to a Category 3, packing winds up to 130 miles (209 kilometers) an hour at its center.

Prior to losing contact with the capital, Nuku'alofa, on Monday, the Ha'apai island group located in the center of the archipelago, had faced "very destructive hurricane force winds" with gusts of 143 miles (228 kilometers) an hour, the Meteorological Office said. Heavy rain, thunderstorms, sea swells and flooding were expected.

In the northern Vava'u islands group, contact was lost early Monday just after Rene hit. Coastal areas flooded as roiling seas surged ashore.

Kelley said no deaths or injuries had been reported in Vava'u or Ha'apai, and the biggest impact so far was on crops.

"We are aware of some damage to buildings but nothing serious at this stage," he said.

Heavy rains had flooded many areas, while powerful winds tore down banana palms and fruit from mango and breadfruit trees.

Takai said at one point Monday evening that it had become too dangerous to go outside.

"It's so noisy, it's like ... a locomotive is running around. It's getting bad now, hopefully this is the worst part of it," he told National Radio.

Hank Gros, who runs a tourism business in Neiafu, the main town in the Vava'u group, said winds there had decreased Monday afternoon, but residents faced up to six days without electricity because all lines were down. He said damage overall was less than expected.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

More political parties forming in Solomons

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star)—More political parties are forming ahead of the national general elections, to be held around June this year in the Solomon Islands. A well placed source told Solomon Star yesterday the number is increasing since Our Party led by Opposition leader, Manasseh Sogavare came to lime light. The other two parties that launched their manifestos and policies earlier after Our Party were Autonomous Solomon Islanders Party and existing Peoples Power Action Party. The source said some of parties beside Our Party are not well organized but just formed to compete in the election. The rise in the number of party formation is expected since the Constitution (Political Parties Amendment) Bill and Political Parties (Registration and Administration) Bill 2009 failed.

Emirates eyes direct air service to Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times)—Locals working in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Fiji's rugby status have been identified as beneficiaries of plans to establish an air services agreement with the UAE. The UAE Foreign Minister was in the country last week to discuss air links. Civil Aviation director Akuila Waradi said the Look North policy was at the centre of the aviation expansion strategy. He said the expansion strategy was aimed at opening up opportunities for trade and tourism for Fiji with lucrative markets in developed economies to the north. He said any air services pact would benefit Fiji nationals working in the UAE and create exposure for Fiji rugby. "Expatriate Fijians working and residing in the UAE, in particular in Dubai, will also greatly benefit from a direct Fiji/UAE (Dubai) air service," Mr. Waradi said. "The UAE has a population of 2.6 million with Dubai city alone comprising a population of 1.241 million."

Taiwan antes up pacific scholarships

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star)—The Taiwan/Republic of China last week handed over US$51,951 to support continuing scholarships under the Taiwan/Republic of China-Pacific Islands Forum (ROC-PIF) Scholarship Scheme. The scholarship scheme, which was established in 2000, is currently managed by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. Scholarships are available to citizens of Forum Island Countries and are available for full or part-time studies. Following the completion of studies, recipients are required to return to their home country to work. Recipients of the scholarship will based at local and regional universities and colleges. Fields of study include commerce, medicine, carpentry, engineering, marine science/affairs, information systems and agriculture. The fields of study are determined and prioritized by member countries. The Secretariat will be advertising 2010 Taiwan/ROC-PIF Scholarships shortly.

Whaling protester in custody on Japanese boat

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)—An anti-whaling activist from New Zealand was being held in custody on a Japanese whaling vessel Tuesday after secretly boarding it the day before as part of a protest, the whalers said.

Diplomats in New Zealand and Tokyo have been meeting to discuss what to do with Peter Bethune, who jumped aboard the *Shonan Maru 2* from a Jet Ski on Monday with the stated goal of making a citizen's arrest of the ship's captain and handing over a $3 million bill for the destruction of his protest ship last month.

The brazen boarding was the latest escalation by the U.S.-based Sea Shepherd activist group meant to hamper the whaling activities of the Japanese.

Japan's Institute of Cetacean Research, which sponsors the whale hunt, called Bethune's actions "a form of piracy" and said the activist was being restrained and may have to stay aboard the ship until it returns to Japan.

It said Bethune used a knife to cut the vessel's protective net to enable his boarding and that he told whalers he then threw the knife into the sea. The crew treated him for a cut on his thumb he received while boarding, the institute said.

AP

In this photo taken Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010 released by the Institute of Cetacean Research of Japan, an activist, right, aboard anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd's ship the *Steve Irwin* uses a water cannon towards the Japanese whaling ship Nisshin Maru in the waters of Antarctica.

"It's a crime under maritime law to board another country's flagged vessel on the high seas illegally," institute spokesman Glenn Inwood told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio. "If he is taken back to Japan, it would be my personal view that ... he should face charges in Japan."

Japanese Fisheries Minister Hirotaka Akamatsu told reporters he wants the activist handed over to Japan's Coast Guard for investigation. Under Japanese law, intruding on a Japanese vessel without legitimate reasons can bring a prison term up to three years or a fine up to 100,000 yen (US$1,100).

New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McClully said it seemed Bethune's intention to be detained aboard the whaling ship, but that the country nevertheless had an obligation to try to help him and was seeking cooperation from Japanese diplomats.

McCully met with Japan's ambassador Tuesday, and New Zealand's top diplomat in Japan met senior officials there Monday.

Sea Shepherd said Bethune wanted to demand the cost of replacing the Ady Gil, an activist ship he captained that was destroyed in a collision with the *Shonan Maru 2* last month, and demand the surrender of the whaling ship's captain on attempted murder charges.

The Ady Gil sank after the collision, though there were only minor injuries.

Japan has six whaling ships in Antarctic waters under its scientific whaling program, an allowed exception to the International Whaling Commission's 1986 ban on commercial whaling. It hunts hundreds of mostly minke whales, which are not an endangered species. Whale meat not used for study is sold for consumption in Japan, which critics say is the real reason for the hunts.

The Sea Shepherd sends vessels to confront the fleet each year, trying to block the whalers from firing harpoons and dangling ropes in the water to try to snarl the Japanese ships' propellers. The whalers have responded by firing water cannons and sonar devices meant to disorient the activists.

Bainimarama hints at bid for PM

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia)—Fiji's military government says interim Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama will not be standing down as army commander ahead of democratic elections in four years time.

However, a senior government spokesman has confirmed reports that Commodore Bainimarama will relinquish his role as interim prime minister in 2014.

Interim government spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Nuemi Leweni has told Pacific Beat it is not known whether the interim prime minister will contest the election, but he is certain Commodore Bainimarama will not be quitting as the commander of the military."He relinquishes the appointment as prime minister, but not the commander," he said. "The appointment of commander will need to be discussed with whichever government comes into place."

Bainimarama

Last week, local press reported Commodore Bainimarama as saying he will retire in 2014.

But Lieutenant Colonel Leweni claims a journalist misintrepreted the Commodore's comment, meaning instead that he would stand down as the interim prime minister in the lead-up to elections.

Commodore Bainimarama has previously stated publicly that he will run for prime minister if that is what the people want.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

An Afghan deal?

The Obama administration's surge in Afghanistan is still in its preliminary stages. A much-anticipated offensive in Helmand province got under way only on Saturday with the approval of Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Though it seems discordant to hear Karzai heavily promote a plan for peace talks with the Taliban, including the staging of a tribal conference within the next few weeks, is it possible the war could be ended with a political settlement before most of the 40,000 U.S. reinforcements President Obama ordered arrive? No, it is not — which is why the administration will have to steer carefully around Karzai's initiative.

Karzai's diplomacy should not be confused with U.S. and NATO plans for Afghan reconciliation. These involve persuading low- and mid-level Taliban militants to give up the fight or striking deals with tribal leaders. Foreign governments have pledged $140 million to this effort, much of which is to be spent on community development projects. It's an important element of the counterinsurgency campaign.

The Afghan government initiative, in contrast, involves trying to make peace with top leaders of the Taliban. According to news reports, the leader of one major faction, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, is already in contact with Kabul. Hekmatyar and the leader of another faction, Sirajuddin Haqqani, are warlords who were once allied with the United States in fighting Soviet forces in Afghanistan; both are still supported by Pakistan's intelligence service. Hekmatyar was once an enemy of the Taliban's principal leader, Mullah Omar, so some experts believe that he and perhaps Haqqani as well could be induced to switch sides.

The first problem with this theory is that it ignores the ties that both leaders have with al-Qaida. That is particularly true of the Haqqani faction, which is believed to have been involved in terrorist bombings in Kabul, including one aimed at the Indian consulate. All of the Taliban leaders have been under pressure to break with Osama bin Laden since before 2001, without result.

Even were the Taliban factions to split with al-Qaida they cannot change their own nature. Hekmatyar is one of Afghanistan's most vicious warlords: In the early 1990s he was responsible for thousands of civilian deaths when his forces indiscriminately shelled and destroyed much of Kabul. Haqqani aspires to control a strategic swath of eastern Afghanistan along the Pakistani border. The return of either one would be a disaster for the cause of human rights or a responsible Afghan government.

To his credit, Karzai has said that Taliban leaders must break with al-Qaida, give up violence and accept the current Afghan constitution as part of any settlement. Saudi Arabia, a potential broker of a deal, has outlined similar conditions. At best the offer may create confusion or suspicion among the various Taliban factions, without leading to any result. Yet it could also raise false hopes, among Afghans and among those Western governments eager to find an Afghan exit strategy. For them the Obama administration should offer a clear message: Handing power or legitimacy to the Haqqani and Hekmatyar factions, or to Mullah Omar, is not an acceptable outcome.

(c) 2010, The Washington Post

The ACCELERATOR'S STUCK, the BRAKES HAVE FAILED, the WHEELS HAVE COME OFF and WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL....
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT TOYOTA, are WE...?

The invisible game, 2nd half!

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Last week's article, "The invisible game," [*Saipan Tribune* Feb 10, 2010] ended with the following teaser: "The truth is, life can be mastered. There are things you could choose to believe that would help the world make sense to you… Yes, hidden within the invisible game is the power and peace of mind you seek!"

Mastering life is just like mastering anything else. If you understand how a car works and know the rules of the road, you can be a better driver. If you understand money, and the rules of business, you can build a profitable venture. If you understand what your partner likes, you can be a better lover.

The people who have the correct assessment of reality are the most successful. It's that simple. Without the correct assessment of reality, the world will not make sense, and you will make poor survival decisions. Growing up, maturing, is (or should be) about developing an increasingly truthful and effective belief system.

Your ability to succeed in life hinges on having the right belief system. A belief system is comprised of a million different perspectives on all aspects of your life. What you believe about yourself, about others, about the world you live in, about the reason for your existence, about why we are all here. It is comprised of your beliefs about the physical, mental and spiritual components of life.

How do you determine if your belief system is correct? You can tell how much in alignment your belief system is by (among other things) how fulfilled you are, how healthy you are, and your level of peace of mind. If any of these areas is lacking in your life, it means that something you believe is out of synch with truth. We could list a million or more different truths that comprise a better belief system. For now, let's look at two.

Cause and effect

Let's suppose that you believed the following:

"I attract the circumstances in my life to be used as catalysts for my growth."

In other words, what if you believed there was a cause/effect relationship between your thoughts, your intentions and your actions (the causes) and the situations you found yourself in (the effects)? What if you believed that your higher self—based on its desire for soul development—creates certain situations in your life that are designed to lead you down a certain path in order to fulfill your purpose for being here?

How would having that specific belief affect your life? Well, for one, you would cease to believe that life is a series of random, mysterious, series of unpredictable events and situations. You would look for the order and the reason behind the things that happen to you. You would become more accountable for what happens in your life. You would stop blaming other people, or chance, or a vengeful deity for the things that happen to you. If you were poor, you wouldn't blame society. If you were overweight, you wouldn't blame your genetics, your metabolism or the sugar in the food.

In addition, you would also ask different questions. If your relationship failed, you wouldn't blame the other person totally—asking "why did they do this to me?" If your (job/school, etc.) application was rejected, you wouldn't blame cruel fate—asking "Why me?" You would ask yourself, "How did I ask for or attract this turn of events into my life?" "How is this helping me to grow?" "If, on some level, I requested this, how does this support my purpose here?" "How is this preparing me for the 'next time?' "What things do I need to modify, improve, or change about myself, my thoughts and my actions in order for things to go the way I want them to next time?"

You would use the circumstances in your life as clues, guidance and lessons for your evolution into a more enlightened human being. You would see all of life's circumstances as offering valuable information, and devote more time to changing your beliefs, your thoughts and your actions in order to attract and create the sort of circumstances you desire.

You can see how just changing one single belief about life (and acting from that belief) could have far-reaching effects on your entire experience.

Permission to eat

As another example, let's suppose you believed the following:

See INVISIBLE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Record snowfalls on a warming planet

By BILL MCKIBBEN
Special to The Washington Post

Bill McKibben is a scholar in residence at Middlebury College and the co-founder of 350.org. He is the author of "The End of Nature" *and the forthcoming* "Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet."

RIPTON, Vt.—You want to hear my winter weather story? No, really, I know you do.

The cross-country ski race I've been training for, set for Sunday high in the Green Mountains: cancelled, lack of snow.

Meanwhile, across the continent, backhoes and helicopters are moving snow down British Columbia's Cypress Mountain in an attempt to cover the Olympic ski courses, and technicians are burying cooling pipes beneath the moguls to keep them from melting. Some climate-conscious jokers put out a video pushing the sport of "bobwheeling" for future snow-challenged Olympiads.

And apparently there was some snowfall on the East Coast last week.

When you're trying to launch snowboarding tricks on dry ground and simultaneously shutting down the U.S. government because the snowbanks are casting shadows on the Washington Monument, something odd is going on. And it doesn't disprove global warming, despite Sen. Jim De Mint's cheerful tweet: "It's going to keep snowing until Al Gore cries `uncle.' "

Instead, the weird and disruptive weather patterns around the world are pretty much exactly what you'd expect as the planet warms. Here's how it works:

In most places, winter is clearly growing shorter and less intense. We can tell, because Arctic sea ice is melting, because the glaciers on Greenland are shrinking and because a thousand other signals send the same message. Here in the mountains of the Northeast, for instance, lakes freeze later than they used to, and sometimes not at all: Lake Champlain remained open in winter only three times during the 19th century, but it did so 18 times between 1970 and 2007.

But rising temperature is only one effect of climate change. Probably more crucially, warmer air holds more water vapor than cold air does. The increased evaporation from land and sea leads to more drought but also to more precipitation, since what goes up eventually comes down. The numbers aren't trivial — global warming has added 4 percent more moisture to the atmosphere since 1970. That means that the number of "extreme events" such as downpours and floods has grown steadily; the most intense storms have increased by 20 percent across the United States in the past century.

So here's the thing: Despite global warming, it still gets cold enough to snow in the middle of winter. It even gets cold enough to snow in Texas and Georgia, as it did late last week. And the chances of what are technically called "big honking dumps" have increased. As Jeff Masters, the widely read weather blogger, pointed out last week, a record snowstorm requires a record amount of moisture in the air. "It is quite possible that the dice have been loaded in favor of more intense Nor'easters for the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, thanks to the higher levels of moisture present in the air due to warmer global temperatures," he wrote.

The climatalogical climate is only part of the equation. The political climate counts, too—and there's no question that it's harder to make legislative progress when Sen. James Inhofe's grandchildren are building an igloo next to the Capitol with a big sign that says "Al Gore's New Home." The timing here is particularly tough, for the snowstorms come against the backdrop of renewed attacks on the pillars of climate science — charges that hacked e-mails show some researchers to be venal or that key scientists have financial ties to energy industries.

Looked at dispassionately, those political attacks essentially buttress the consensus around global warming. If that much money and attention can be aimed at the data and all anyone can find is a few mistakes and a collection of nasty e-mails, it's a pretty good sign that the science is sound (though not as good a sign as the melting Arctic). The British newspaper the Guardian just concluded a huge series on the "Climategate" e-mails with the words: "The world is still warming. Humanity is still to blame. And we still, urgently, need to do something about it."

Letters to the Editor

New directions

There is no question that the CNMI had enjoyed tremendous success in the '80s and early '90s with the garment business and Japanese tourists. But both of those pillars of those yesteryears are long gone. The garment industry is now permanently in China, and Japan, is not what it used to be. It's so bad in Japan right now that Japan Airlines, the country's national flag carrier, was forced into bankruptcy. Few believed that this day would come, but Japan Airlines could not change its business model enough and so a radical change must be forced upon it in bankruptcy court.

So couldn't now be the time when we really need to try a few things, when we are hitting rock bottom, and all everyone has time for is to plan how to cut costs, terminate employees, or migrate?

When I came accoss this article today from the Associated Press, I thought of sharing it because it shows how a nation as strict, disciplined, and serious as Singapore, recognized that even if it was a first world country, it had to make changes. It realized that the future was tourism and that many tourists, particularly the Chinese, enjoyed gaming. So as difficult as it was for them to make a 180-degree turn (you couldn't even chew gum on the streets), they implemented some strict laws to minimize its impact but went on and attracted two of the biggest casino companies in the world to sink billions into Singapore.

Again, the point is not to legalize casinos per se, it is to look at all our own taboos and laws that restrict our development with some practicality, and improvise to suit our local requirements. As I have said before, what's the difference really between a 55-year lease, and a 99-year lease? What's the difference between poker halls and a casino targeting tourists? What's there to fear in CUC's privatization as long as it is given to a reputable large company in an open manner where there are clear deliverables and local training and employment?

In short, while we have all the potential in the world to be the next Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Maui, you name it, we need to be open to trying out new things before we have no choices left on the table.

Ricky Delgado
IT&E president and CEO

The island spirit

I totally agree 100 percent with Mr. Tony Pelligrino for our lawmakers to put our people's face on the frontlines of all our businesses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and to represent our islands' hospitality in greeting and enticing tourist and investors on all our islands. It is not only commonsense but that is the way we are supposed to show our islands' *hafa adai* spirit.

It is in line with the Hawaii's spirit way of greeting their VIP visitors into their respective islands and Saipan should embrace our Mariana Islands spirit so we can express our true spirit identity to our visiting VIP tourists. I know how diverse we are but our island spirit way of culture must be displayed and be preserved so the visitors know our islands' way of life. Hopefully this will happen not soon but later.

Joaquin Romolor
Portland, Oregon

INVISIBLE

From Page 10

"Real food consists of fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains in as close to their natural state as possible."

What if you believed that anything that was an animal, or that was processed, genetically modified, grown with chemicals, fed antibiotics, sprayed with pesticides, microwaved, or even cooked, and that came in a box or can was unnatural, and no longer real food? Furthermore, what if you believed that the human body was designed to eat only real food, and made a decision to act on that belief and only eat real food from now on?

You wouldn't need advertising campaigns, multi-national product manufacturers, scientists, food councils or food and drug agencies to validate your food choices. You wouldn't need anyone's permission to eat an apple. You wouldn't need the dairy council, the meat council, fast food restaurants to tell you what was healthy and what wasn't. You would be your own authority on the matter.

As a result, you might find yourself getting slimmer and healthier. You might find certain ailments reverse themselves. You might find you're not getting as sick as often. You might gain control and mastery over your health, reduce your fear of sickness, your dependence on drugs, and stick around longer to enjoy life!

These are just two of countless beliefs you could choose to adopt.

Truth, power, and control

As you compile this new set of truths to help you negotiate life, you would be advised to keep them to yourself. Why? Many of these beliefs challenge the norm and threaten the status quo. They are often empowering beliefs that challenge the power of people in control, and those who serve them.

Remember this: "The only way to control someone is to lie to them." Therefore, if someone has control over you, it is because you believe in a lie about yourself, about him or her, or about the world you live in. If your boss, or your church or your partner has power or control over you, it is because there is a lie in effect. They may not be the ones telling the lie, but they are benefiting from the perpetuation of the lie.

Truth threatens lies, and thus control and power. When people start to live according to new, more effective truths, someone's power and control is inevitably threatened. It's the nature of the game.

A word of warning: Beware the vested interests

You don't need anyone's permission or agreement to choose and act on your truths and your beliefs. You are your own authority. If you seek such permission or agreement, a debate will inevitably ensue. People will argue to talk you out of your beliefs. There are usually two types of people who argue against a particular belief: those who have a vested interest in keeping things they way they are (for power and control), and those who have been convinced of the original beliefs by those in the first group.

For example, if you choose to believe that you attract the circumstances in your life, and seek agreement or permission from others, you will encounter opposition from two groups: (1) those who benefit from keeping you as a passive player in the visible game, and (2) those who have been convinced by the people in group 1, and will cite scientific research as well as biblical chapter and verse in support of the randomness of life and your passivity and the futility of trying to change your reality.

If, for example, you choose to give up eating meat, choose to eat only real food, and seek agreement or permission from others, you will encounter opposition from (1) those who sell meat for a living, and (2) those who have been convinced by those in group 1 that meat consumption is healthy, and who don't want to face the possibility that their own belief system is flawed and so, cite scientific research, as well as biblical chapter and verse in support of their belief.

The vested interests and their minions will always argue in opposition to truth.

Match point

There are an infinite number of such beliefs that comprise what I call "the invisible game" that seek to challenge existing power and control. Everything from reincarnation to the existence of life on other planets, to the reason for seemingly premature deaths, to the real cause of birth defects all exist as part of belief system that accepts and explains them in ways that make sense and when tested, offer plausible explanations where none seemed to exist before, and explain things that others thought were beyond knowing. The adoption of these and countless other beliefs has the delightful side-effect of reducing fear, uncertainty, confusion and dependency, while increasing confidence, independence, faith by making sense of and providing a workable strategy for the visible game. Game set!

■ ■ ■

Note: *Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: *Fans and followers of the book, Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan are encouraged to place orders at www.saipanfactorygirl.com. A new shipment is coming soon, and people are already claiming their copies even before it arrives! Don't miss out!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

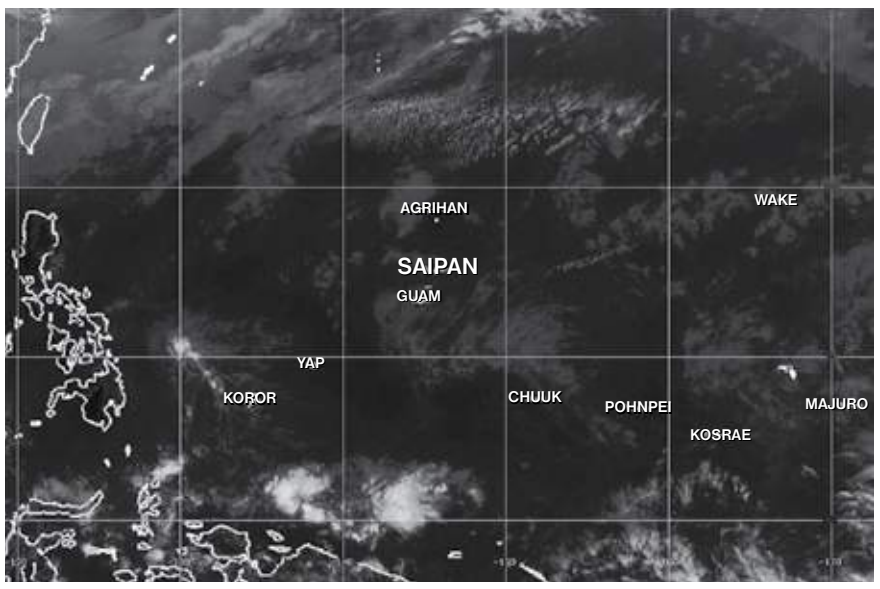
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲83	▼74
Palau	Sunny	▲90	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲75	▼68
Beijing	Sunny	▲30	▼20
Hong Kong	Rain	▲55	▼48
Honolulu	Showers	▲72	▼64
London	Showers	▲43	▼34
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼50
Manila	Sunny	▲90	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼60
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼49
New York	Cloudy	▲36	▼27
Osaka	Rain/Snow	▲41	▼36
Paris	Rain	▲41	▼40
Pusan	Rain/Snow	▲48	▼25
Rome	Showers	▲56	▼53
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼36
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼48
Seoul	Cloudy	▲31	▼17
Tokyo	Dreary	▲41	▼34
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲40	▼25

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence near the equator is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of YGuam between the equator and 3N from 136E to 139E and from 142E to 146E. A surface trough runs from 10N130E to 6N135E. Scattered showers are found 60 miles northeast of the trough including Koror and between 10N and 13N from west of 130E to 133E. Trade-wind disturbances are producing low cloudiness and scattered showers just south of Guam between 8N and 13N from 143E to 155E over and west of Kwajalein within 150 miles of a line from 11N162E to 8N169E and southeast of Wake Island between 12N and 16N from 171E to 180. A cold front extends from 25N140E southwestward to beyond 130E at 19N. Cloudiness and a few showers are present along and northwest of the front to north of 25N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:40 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Thursday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:14 AM	8:46 PM
Thursday	8:50 AM	9:34 PM
Friday	9:28 AM	10:25 PM
Saturday	10:09 AM	11:18 PM
Sunday	10:55 AM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Govt: 34 deaths alleged in Toyotas since 2000

WASHINGTON (AP)—Complaints of deaths connected to sudden acceleration in Toyota vehicles have surged in recent weeks, with the alleged death toll reaching 34 since 2000, according to new consumer data gathered by the government.

Complaints to a database maintained by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration about the popular Toyota Prius hybrid grew by nearly 1,000 in just over a week.

On Monday, Transportation Department spokeswoman Olivia Alair said NHTSA is quickly gathering information to help guide the government's examination of sudden acceleration, the Prius braking system and other safety issues.

Toyota Motor Corp. has recalled 8.5 million vehicles globally during the past four months because of problems with gas pedals, floor mats and brakes, threatening the safety and quality reputation of the world's No. 1 automaker. The government typically receives a surge in complaints following a recall. None has yet been verified.

AP

In this June 5, 2009 file photo, Toyota workers assemble parts on 2010 Prius hybrid vehicles at Toyota Tsutsumi Plant in Toyota, central Japan. Assembly lines that run like clockwork.

The new complaints reflect the heightened awareness of the massive recalls among the public and underscore a flurry of lawsuits on behalf of drivers alleging deaths and injuries in Toyota crashes. Three congressional hearings are planned on the Toyota recalls.

In the past three weeks, consumers have told the government about nine crashes involving 13 alleged deaths between 2005 and 2010 due to accelerator problems, according to a NHTSA database. The latest reports are in addition to previous complaints from consumers that alleged 21 deaths from 2000 to the end of last year.

The database also shows that new complaints skyrocketed over the 2010 Prius gas-electric hybrid, which was recalled last week to replace braking software.

When NHTSA opened its investigation of Prius on Feb. 3, the government had received 124 consumer complaints. Through Feb. 11, the government had a total of 1,120 complaints alleging 34 crashes, six injuries and no deaths.

The government has renewed an investigation into potential electromagnetic problems in vehicles built by Toyota and other manufacturers. Consumer groups have pointed to potential electrical problems while the company has said recalls to fix sticking gas pedals or accelerators that can become jammed will address the problem.

Oil industry cautious on future

LONDON (AP)—The oil industry expects a difficult road ahead as it struggles to recover from the global economic downturn and is forced to juggle rising demand from developing countries against requirements for cleaner energy.

Oil executives and analysts meeting in London on Monday said the industry was at a crossroads as it emerges out of a rout that sent crude prices tumbling from a record high of $150 in July 2008 to under $40 a barrel at the peak of the financial turmoil.

BP PLC chief economist Christof Ruehl said consolidation was likely in the refining sector after oil companies reported billion dollar losses at the end of last year amid falling demand.

"To put it bluntly and shortly, there will have to be some consolidation in the global refining industry," Ruehl said at London's annual International Petroleum Week.

Ruehl said that lower output from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the global economic recovery would continue to support crude oil prices this year, setting a price floor.

But he was skeptical of a stronger rebound in demand that has been forecast by some commentators, saying that daily consumption growth would remain below the average levels of 1.1 million barrels recorded in the years leading up to the global financial crisis.

He said that prices are likely to hold in recent trading ranges—crude has fluctuated within a relatively tight $15 band between $69 and $84 per barrel since the start of October—as excess capacity keeps them from spiking over the next few years.

Saudi Arabia preparing for oil demand to peak

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—A top Saudi energy official expressed serious concern Monday that world oil demand could peak in the next decade and said his country was preparing for that eventuality by diversifying its economic base.

Mohammed al-Sabban, lead climate talks negotiator, said the country with the world's largest proven reserves of conventional crude is working to become the top exporter of energy, including alternative forms such as solar power.

Saudi Arabia was among the most vocal opponents of proposals during the climate change talks in Copenhagen. And al-Sabban criticized what he described as efforts by developed nations to adopt policies biased against oil producers through the imposition of taxes on refined petroleum products while offering huge subsidies for coal—a key industry for the United States.

Al-Sabban said the potential that world oil demand had peaked, or would peak soon, was an "alarm that we need to take more seriously" as Saudi charts a course for greater economic diversification.

"We cannot stay put and say 'well, this is something that will happen anyway," al-Sabban said at the Jeddah Economic Forum. The "world cannot wait for us before we are forced to adapt to the reality of lower and lower oil revenues," he added later.

Eurozone tells Greece to ready new cuts, taxes

BRUSSELS (AP)—European finance ministers bluntly told Greece to prepare tougher spending cuts and new taxes in an attempt to snuff out a government debt crisis that has shaken the entire eurozone.

The 16 countries that use the euro warned Greece on Monday that it will need to take the extra measures if current cutbacks don't bring its massive deficit down—from a staggering 12.7 percent of economic output to a still-high 8.7 percent this year.

Greece has until March 16 to report back on its progress.

It was already under pressure for falsifying statistics for years to make its deficits look lower and is now under added scrutiny for using complex financial deals to mask debt going back to 2001.

Eurozone nations have pledged to help Greece if it can't repay its debts—but want Greece to make big spending cuts first. They are taking action because fears of a Greek default could spark a wider European debt crisis, threatening governments ability to borrow money.

"It's clear that we are all in this together. We won't abandon Greece," said French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde—who would likely lead a potential bailout along with Germany.

"Greece has to actually deliver and is beginning to deliver. Greece has to demonstrate on a day to day basis .. that it is committed to do what it takes," she told reporters.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Microsoft replays Zune design for phone comeback

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Apple Inc. rocked the wireless business by combining the functions of a phone and an iPod. Now, more than two years later, Microsoft Corp. has its comeback: phone software that works a lot like its own Zune media player. The software, which was unveiled Monday at the Mobile World Congress, is a dramatic change from previous generations of the software that used to be called Windows Mobile. But Microsoft is, for now, sticking to its model of making the software and selling it to phone manufacturers, rather than making its own phones.

Oil hovers above $74 as traders eye crude demand

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $74 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as investors looked for signs of improving global crude demand amid light holiday trading. Benchmark crude for March delivery was up 9 cents at $74.22 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. With markets closed Monday in the U.S. for the Presidents Day holiday, the contract last settled on Friday, falling $1.15 to $74.13. Trading volume was light in Asia as markets in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia were closed for the Lunar New Year holiday.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,605.30 Up 34.90 (0.76%)
HONG KONG	20,268.69 Down 22.00 (-0.11%)
JAKARTA	2,520.92 Up 3.46 (0.14%)
TOKYO	10,060.34 Up 47.04 (0.47%)
K. LUMPUR	1,253.39 Up 3.97 (0.32%)
MANILA	2,965.16 Up 1.92 (0.06%)
SINGAPORE	2,758.90 Up 5.27 (0.19%)
SEOUL	1,606.40 Up 12.74 (0.80%)
BANGKOK	692.12 Up 3.03 (0.44%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,099.14 -45.05
NASDAQ	2,183.53 -6.12
S&P	1,075.51 -2.96

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1240
British Pound	0.6376
Canadian Dollar	1.0495
Chinese Renminbi	6.8334
Euro	0.7339
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7705
Indian Rupee	46.2950
Indonesian Rupiah	9,350.0000
Japanese Yen	90.0400
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4229
New Zealand Dollar	1.4331
Philippine Peso	46.2800
Singapore Dollar	1.4109
South Korean Won	1,156.0000
Swiss Franc	1.0765
Taiwan Dollar	32.1150
Thailand Baht	33.1950

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Husband: Ala. prof went to range before shooting

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—The husband of an Alabama professor accused of fatally shooting three colleagues said Monday that the couple went to a shooting range recently, but that he didn't know where she got the gun she used for practice.

His description of Amy Bishop's "normal" demeanor leading up to Friday's shooting at a faculty meeting matched an account by a witness, who said the gathering was unremarkable until the gunfire broke out. Bishop, a Harvard-educated neurobiologist, is accused shooting six people at the meeting, three fatally. Two of the survivors remained in critical condition Monday.

Bishop's husband, James Anderson, said he knew his wife had a gun, but didn't know when or how she got it.

"I really don't know how she got it, or where she got it from," he told The Associated Press in an interview at his home.

Police have previously said Bishop had no permit for the gun they believe she used in the shooting, and investigators said they didn't know where she got it. It's not clear if that was the same gun that her husband knew about.

Bishop

Bishop's husband said nothing unusual happened on their trip to the shooting range, and that she didn't reveal why she took an interest in target practice. Nothing in her behavior in the days before the shooting foreshadowed the violence last week, either, he said.

"She was just a normal professor," he said.

Before the shootings Friday, the meeting was tranquil enough that ecology professor Robert O. Lawton was working on a manuscript about trees instead of paying full attention to the discussion. He said Bishop's behavior didn't stand out.

"It was an ordinary faculty meeting. Then it became unordinary," Lawton said Monday, declining to elaborate on what he saw.

Investigators haven't commented on a possible motive, but Bishop was vocal among colleagues about her displeasure over being denied tenure by the university, forcing her to look for work elsewhere after this semester.

On Monday, some victims' relatives were questioning how Bishop was hired at the university in 2003 after she was involved years ago in separate criminal probes. University of Alabama in Huntsville officials were meeting privately to review the files concerning her hiring.

In 1986, Bishop shot and killed her 18-year-old brother with a shotgun at their Braintree, Mass., home. She told police at the time that she had been trying to learn how to use the gun, which her father had bought for protection, when it accidentally discharged.

Authorities released her and said the episode was a tragic accident. She was never charged, though current Braintree police Chief Paul Frazier questions how the investigation was handled. Frazier said she also fired once into a wall before hitting her brother, then fired a third time into the ceiling.

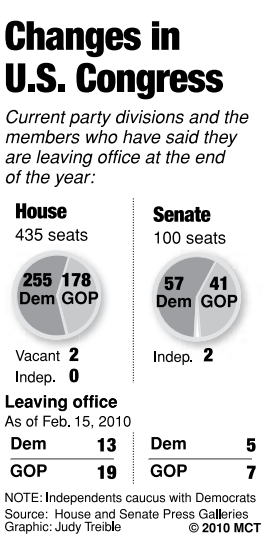
Her husband said Monday he had known about her brother being shot, but said "it was an accident. That's all I knew about it."

Democrat Evan Bayh of Ind. to retire from Senate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Evan Bayh, a centrist Democrat from Indiana, announced Monday that he won't seek a third term in Congress, giving Republicans a chance to pick up a Senate seat.

"To put it in words I think most people can understand: I love working for the people of Indiana, I love helping our citizens make the most of their lives, but I do not love Congress," Bayh said at a news conference Indianapolis, where he was joined by his wife and two sons.

The departure of Bayh, who was on President Barack Obama's short list of vice presidential candidate prospects in 2008, continues a recent exodus from Congress among both Democrats and Republicans, including veteran Democrats Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island.



The announcements have sprung up in rapid-fire fashion amid polls showing a rising anti-incumbent fervor and voter anger over Washington partisanship, high unemployment, federal deficits and lucrative banking industry bonuses.

Obama thanked Bayh for his years of public service.

"During that time, he has fought tirelessly for Indiana's working families, reaching across the aisle on issues ranging from job creation and economic growth to fiscal responsibility and national security," Obama said in a written statement. "I look forward to continuing to work with him on these critical challenges throughout the rest of the year."

In this photo provided by NASA, astronaut Robert Behnken participates in the mission's second session of extravehicular activity as construction and maintenance continue on the International Space Station, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010.

AP

Astronauts move old space station docking port

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Astronauts did some rearranging at the International Space Station for the second night in a row Monday, moving an old docking adapter into a new position.

A pair of spacemen used the station's hefty robot arm to remove the 10-year-old adapter from the space station and transfer it to a port at the new room, Tranquility. There, it will provide an extra parking spot for visiting vessels and serve as a buffer against micrometeorite hits.

As that work was going on, the crews of the shuttle and station were connecting power and data lines in the new $27 million observation deck that was moved to its permanent location early Monday. Later this week, the domed, seven-windowed lookout will get its most important addition: a robotic work station for operating the station's mechanical arm.

"It's a beautiful module," said shuttle pilot Terry Virts.

Monday's work unfolded on the eve of the third and final spacewalk of Endeavour's mission. Robert Behnken and Nicholas Patrick will venture back out Tuesday night and unlock the shutters on the lookout's windows, enabling their colleagues inside to crank open the shutters.

The astronauts can't wait to gaze down at Earth through those windows; the center one is the biggest window ever flown in space.

Behnken and Patrick were the ones who operated the robot arm during Monday night's moving operation.

"Take the rest of the afternoon off," Mission Control radioed after the relocation job was completed. Mission Control gave the two crews Tuesday morning off to prepare for the spacewalk finale; it's afternoon to the astronauts, who are working the graveyard shift in orbit.

Endeavour and its crew of six will depart the space station Friday after a visit of 1 1/2 weeks. They've already accomplished their major objective: delivering and installing Tranquility and the observation deck, European contributions.

Snow likely a factor in Pa. ice rink collapse

ROSTRAVER, Pa. (AP)—Heavy snow buildup from recent storms likely contributed to the collapse of an ice rink roof, causing a panicked evacuation but no injuries, a fire official and the building's owner said.

"We believe it was excessive weight from the copious quantities of snow that we've had over the past 10 days," Jim Murphy, who has owned the Rostraver Ice Garden since 1993, said Monday. "We believe a laminated wood truss broke and that caused two other ones to go and the roof to pancake in that area."

The region has gotten more than two feet of snow in the past week and a half. Justin Shawley, assistant chief of the Rostraver Central Volunteer Fire Company, also said snow and ice buildup may have contributed to the collapse.

A 100-foot-by-200-foot roof section fell in during a youth hockey tournament Sunday afternoon. The teams were in the locker room and only one person, a rink worker, was on the ice.

The worker heard a crack and told people to get out of the building, Shawley said. About 100 people inside the rink bolted for the exits.

ACROSS THE NATION

Small plane crashes at mid-NJ airport, killing 5

WALL TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—A small plane trying to land broke apart and tore through a snowy field next to a runway Monday afternoon, killing all five people aboard, including a teenager and a child, and scattering debris over 200 feet. The crash was reported at 3:45 p.m. at Monmouth Executive Airport, about 35 miles east of Trenton, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters. The weather was overcast, but no precipitation was falling. Capt. Tim Clayton of the Wall Township police said debris from the crash was scattered over a 200-foot stretch of snowy ground.

Calif. sheriff: Woman tied up, assaulted for days

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP)—Sheriff's deputies rescued a woman who had been kidnapped, then beaten and raped for three days in a mobile home, authorities said. John Gomez, 58, was arrested Friday on suspicion of various kidnapping, sexual assault and drug charges. He was being held on $2.1 million bail. Deputies went to the Western Mobile Home Park in south Santa Rosa after hearing from someone who received an urgent call for help from the victim. Inside Gomez's rented trailer they found the 40-year-old woman with her ankle tethered to a bolt on his bedroom floor and suffering various injuries, Sgt. Cecile Focha said.

Family mourns as 7 die in suburban Chicago blaze

CICERO, Ill. (AP)—A grandfather who had been planning to spend his weekend with his family celebrating his birthday and the arrival of a new grandson instead mourned the loss of three children, two grandchildren and two friends in a suburban Chicago fire. Elijah Grays lost his 18-year-old daughter Sally Gist, 16-year-old twins Elicia and Elijah Gist, and Sally's sons Rayshawn Gist, 3, and 3-day-old Byron Reed in the blaze that engulfed a three-story building where the family lived in Cicero early Sunday. Sally's 20-year-old boyfriend, Byron Reed, and Tiera Davidson, a 19-year-old family friend, also perished in the fire.

Colo. teen beaten to death after being hit by car

THORNTON, Colo. (AP)—Police in Colorado say a 16-year-old boy died after he was hit by a car then beaten by its occupants. Thornton police spokesman Matt Barnes says a house party spilled into a street about 1:26 a.m. Monday, when the teenager was struck by the car. Barnes says people in the car began beating the boy and others around him. The teenager later died from injuries to his head and upper body. Barnes says police are trying to determine whether a dispute at the party triggered the beating. The boy's name is being withheld until his relatives are notified.

Asia

Taliban step up attacks in besieged Afghan town

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban fighters stepped up counter-attacks against Marines and Afghan soldiers in the militant stronghold of Marjah, slowing the allied advance to a crawl despite Afghan government claims that the insurgents are broken and on the run.

Taliban fighters appeared to be slipping under cover of darkness into compounds already deemed free of weapons and explosives, then opening fire on the Marines from behind U.S. lines.

Two NATO servicemembers died Monday from bomb strikes in Helmand, but neither was part of the Marjah offensive, military spokesman Sgt. Kevin Bell said. NATO did not provide their nationalities.

Also on Monday, NATO said five civilians were accidentally killed and two wounded by an airstrike when they were mistakenly believed to have been planting roadside bombs in Kandahar province, east of the Marjah offensive.

The airstrike happened one day after 12 people, half of them children, were killed by two U.S. missiles that struck a house on the outskirts of Marjah. Afghan officials said Monday that three Taliban fighters were in the house at the time of the attack.

On the third day of the main attack on Marjah, Afghan commanders spoke optimistically Monday about progress in the town of about 80,000 people, the linchpin of the Taliban logistical and opium poppy smuggling network in the militant-influenced south.

Brig. Gen. Sher Mohammad Zazai, commander of Afghan troops in the south, told reporters in nearby Lashkar Gah that there had been "low resistance" in the town, adding "soon we will have Marjah cleared of enemies."

AP

An Afghan man with a gunshot wound is carried to a waiting helicopter to be evacuated by a U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus helicopter crew, in Marjah, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Monday Feb. 15, 2010.

Interior Minister Hanif Atmar said many insurgent fighters had already fled Marjah, possibly heading for Pakistan.

In Marjah, however, there was little sign the Taliban were broken. Instead, small, mobile teams of insurgents repeatedly attacked U.S. and Afghan troops with rocket, rifle and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Insurgents moved close enough to the main road to fire repeatedly at columns of mine-clearing vehicles.

Questions about health as NKorean leader turn 68

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Koreans celebrated leader Kim Jong Il's 68th birthday—one of the country's most important holidays—on Tuesday amid persistent questions about his health and the future leadership of the communist nation.

Kim appears active in photos churned out by state media but he is chronically ill and has given up on Western medicine in favor of rare, costly and in some cases outlawed traditional remedies, two North Korea experts said.

Like his father Kim Il Sung before him, Kim Jong Il leads the nation of 24 million with absolute authority. There are concerns abroad that his sudden death could trigger instability and a possible power struggle in the nuclear-armed nation.

Though his health remains a tightly guarded secret, Kim is believed to have suffered a stroke in August 2008. Since then, North Korean officials have traveled to Beijing to buy expensive, hard-to-find remedies such as bear gall bladder, rhinoceros horn and musk, a South Korean intelligence expert told The Associated Press.

The expert, who claims detailed knowledge of the purchases, spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of matters involving Kim.

Kim also regularly undergoes kidney dialysis, suffers from depression and is psychologically unstable, said Cheong Seong-chang, a senior analyst at the private Sejong Institute think tank outside Seoul, citing a "very credible source."

Kim Jong Il's declining health has forced him to hasten the process of handing over power, Cheong said.

RP army presents alleged rebels to court

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military presented 43 people it says are communist rebels to a Manila court Monday for a hearing on allegations the detainees are actually health workers who were falsely charged and tortured in detention.

The detainees were brought to the Court of Appeals on army buses and handcuffed to military escorts for the hearing, which brings to the fore allegations of military abuses of suspected communist rebels and sympathizers.

The military has accused the group of belonging to the New People's Army, the armed wing of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines, which has waged a 41-year insurgency. They have been charged with illegal possession of weapons and explosives after a Feb. 6 raid on a residential compound in Morong township, east of Manila.

The military said they were holding bomb-making seminars and giving medical training, and that two pistols, three grenades, land mines and bomb-making materials were seized from them.

Alexis Montes, a doctor, told the court that since they were detained he and his colleagues had been subjected to prolonged interrogation, denied their right to counsel and held incommunicado at a military camp.

AP

Detained alleged communist rebels clench their fist as they leave the Court of Appeals in Manila, Philippines on Monday Feb. 15, 2010.

One of the group's lawyers, Romeo Capulong, asked the court to have his clients transferred from the military camp to the national police headquarters, citing restrictions the military had imposed on lawyers' visits.

A hungry India balks at genetically modified crops

MUMBAI, India (AP)—It began quietly in America a decade ago, with a tomato.

Since the introduction of the Flavr Savr tomato, engineered for long shelf life, genetically modified food has become a fact of American life.

Not so in India. The debate over GM food, long settled in America, is noisily beginning here.

Last week, India halted the commercial release of the world's first genetically engineered eggplant, called Bt brinjal. The environment minister, Jairam Ramesh, said that given the lack of consensus within the scientific community and the pitch of public opposition, further study was needed to guarantee consumer safety.

Why the skepticism over a technology many scientists say is crucial for feeding the 9 billion people who will populate the planet by 2050?

To many in India, embracing Bt brinjal—which has a gene owned by Monsanto Co—also means embracing corporate farming and surrendering some control of the nation's food supply to a powerful foreign company. They worry this could have disastrous consequences for the nation's 100 million small farming families.

"It would not be an exaggeration to say that public concerns about Bt brinjal have been influenced very heavily by perceptions of Monsanto itself," Ramesh wrote in his report.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Military medics try to keep Afghan boy alive

BADULA QULP, Afghanistan (AP)—Two Afghan men on a motorcycle approached a makeshift camp of NATO and Afghan troops and unloaded a bundle of blankets. American soldiers went into combat mode, throwing on flak vests and helmets and grabbing their rifles. They feared it was a ruse—perhaps a suicide bomber moving in for the kill. The Afghans raised their robes to show they had no weapons, and unwrapped the bundle. Inside was 7-year-old Sayd Rahman, shot in the chest near Marjah, where U.S. Marines are trying to clear out a bastion of insurgency in one of the biggest operations since the ouster of the Taliban in 2001. "He's still breathing, so that's a good thing," said Cpl. Bradley Casey, member of a Canadian military unit that is training Afghan troops in the Badula Qulp region, northeast of Marjah. Forces there are assisting the Marines, impeding Taliban movement in the area.

Sri Lanka's opposition coalition cracking

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The main partner in Sri Lanka's opposition coalition will contest the next elections independently, officials said Monday, the first split since its defeated presidential candidate was arrested for alleged sedition. United National Party leader Ranil Wickremesinghe told reporters Sunday that his party had decided to go it alone, but might still field joint candidates with others in the April 8 polls. The main party representing the country's Tamil minority announced earlier it would also go it alone. The leader of a smaller opposition party, Mano Ganeshan, told The Associated Press on Monday that the possibility that the UNP would reverse its decision was the "only silver lining," because otherwise the opposition would have no chance of countering the president's control of parliament.

Maoist rebels kill 24 police in eastern India

CALCUTTA, India (AP)—Maoist rebels detonated land mines and set a security outpost ablaze in eastern India, killing at least 24 policemen in the worst-ever attack on police in the restive area. An additional seven officers were wounded in the brazen assault Monday by more than 100 communist fighters, who also stole weapons from the security post in Shilda village of West Bengal state, said district magistrate N.S. Nigam. "Never before the police here have suffered so many losses in one attack," Surajit Kar Purkayastha, a police inspector-general, told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

UN: Cocaine being traded for arms in West Africa

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—Cocaine shipped to West Africa by Latin American drug cartels is now being traded for arms, the U.N.'s drug czar said Monday—an exchange of contraband that is especially dangerous in a region now home to cells of an al-Qaida-linked terror group. Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, says "there is more than just spotty evidence" indicating a link between drug traffickers and terror groups. "And before this becomes a very serious problem, it has to be dealt with and nipped in the bud," Costa said in an interview with The Associated Press, on the sidelines of a seven-nation drug summit in the Senegalese capital of Dakar.

Belgian train collision kills at least 18

BRUSSELS (AP)—A rush-hour commuter train sped through a red signal and slammed into an oncoming train as it left a suburban Brussels station, killing at least 18 people and disrupting rail traffic in northern Europe. Investigations into one the worst accidents on the Belgian rails were likely to focus on whether human error was responsible or if it could have been influenced by the persistently freezing temperatures that have iced up the European capital. Officials said 80 people were injured, 20 of them seriously in Monday's crash. The death toll—15 men and three women—was not considered final.

Israel discovers large Byzantine-era wine press

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli archaeologists said Monday that they've discovered an unusually shaped 1,400-year-old wine press that was exceptionally large and advanced for its time. The octagonal press measures 21 feet by 54 feet (6.5 meters by 16.5 meters) and was discovered in southern Israel, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. "What we have here seems to be an industrial and crafts area of a settlement from the sixth to seventh century, which was situated in the middle of an agricultural region," said excavation director Uzi Ad of the Israel Antiquities Authority.

Fears of another quake become new Haiti boogeyman

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Hundreds of houses that survived Haiti's killer quake still stand empty even as quake victims desperate for shelter crowd the streets. The reason is fear: Nobody is quite sure they can withstand another quake.

At least 54 aftershocks have shuddered through Haiti's shattered capital since a Jan. 12 quake killed more than 200,000 people. They have toppled weakened buildings faster than demolition crews can get to them, sending up new clouds of choking dust. On Monday, three children were killed when a school collapsed in the northern city of Cap-Haitien. It wasn't clear what caused the collapse, which occurred after a late-night tremor and heavy rains.

"I tried sleeping in the house for a night, but an aftershock came and I ran outside," said Louise Lafonte, 36, who beds down with her family of five in a tent beside her seemingly intact concrete house. "I'm not going inside until the ground calms down."

That may be awhile. Seismologists say more, damaging aftershocks are likely and there's even a chance of another large quake following quickly after the initial catastrophe in the capital of 3 million people.

In 1751, a large quake hit the island that Haiti shares with the Dominican Republic. About a month later, another one destroyed Port-au-Prince.

A magnitude-7.4 quake that killed more than 18,000 people in northwestern Turkey in 1999 was followed three months later by another of magnitude-7.2 only 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the initial epicenter.

"There are many other examples like that of two significant earthquakes following each other," said Eric Calais, a geophysicist at Purdue University who said he warned the Haitian government two years ago that the country was vulnerable to a major quake.

The prospect of another quake is on the minds of planners trying to rebuild the country and on those trying to prevent more deaths.

U.N. inspectors have advised people to stay away from dozens of structures. On Jan. 26, four people were trapped when a building collapsed on them, and on Feb. 9, a magnitude-4.0 aftershock shook loose debris at a shattered supermarket, trapping several more.

AP

A Haitian flag sits on the rubble of the university of applied languages where 175 students died on Jan. 12 during the earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Monday, Feb. 15, 2010.

Power outage impedes release of Americans

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haiti's creaky, quake-damaged electrical system apparently delayed on Monday a judge's decision on whether to release 10 Americans charged with child kidnapping.

Prosecutor Josephe Manes Louis told The Associated Press that he completed his recommendation to the judge, as the law requires, but that a power outage Monday kept him from printing it out and delivering it.

"I have made my decision," he said. "What is blocking me now is the electricity." Power has only been restored to about one-fifth of Port-au-Prince.

But even before the earthquake only one in four Haitians had power and, on average, any given capital neighborhood only had 10 hours of power a day.

Because Tuesday is a national holiday—Mardi Gras—Louis said he did not expect the judge to issue a decision until Wednesday morning.

Neither Louis nor Judge Bernard Saint-Vil would say whether a provisional release would allow the group to leave the country while an investigation continues.

Saint-Vil told the AP on Thursday he would recommend the Americans be granted provisional release.

He said he accepted the defense argument that the Americans, who said they were setting up an orphanage across the border in the Dominican Republic, had good intentions.

The Americans were arrested on Jan. 29 trying to take 33 children out of Haiti. They say they were on humanitarian mission and only wanted to help children after the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Clinton: Iran is becoming a military dictatorship

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday Iran is sliding into a military dictatorship, a new assessment suggesting a rockier road ahead for U.S.-led efforts to stop Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

As the first high-level Obama administration official to make such an accusation, Clinton was reflecting an ever-dimming outlook for persuading Iran to negotiate limits on its nuclear program, which it has insisted is intended only for peaceful purposes. The U.S. and others—including the two Gulf countries Clinton visited Sunday and Monday—believe Iran is headed for a nuclear bomb capability.

Clinton also was revealing the logic of the administration's plan to target the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps with a new round of international sanctions intended to compel Iran to curb its nuclear ambitions before it increases the likelihood of a military clash.

Clinton flew to Riyadh, the Saudi capital, where Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal seemed to express doubt about the usefulness of seeking more sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program. In a joint appearance with Clinton, he said the threat posed by Iran's nuclear ambitions demands a more immediate solution. The Saudi foreign minister didn't identify a preferred short-term resolution.

"Sanctions are a long-term solution. But we see the issue in the shorter term because we are closer to the threat," he said.

U.S. officials said privately that they were unsure of al-Faisal's meaning and that they were certain Saudi Arabia was not opposed to new sanctions. They said the Saudis have some doubt that sanctions can be effective.The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in order to describe diplomatically sensitive conversations with the Saudi leadership.

Clinton was driven in King Abdullah's private bus about 65 miles northeast to Rawdat Khurayim, a secluded royal hunting retreat where the vacationing king hosted her for lunch—and where a large-screen TV was on. Afterward they met privately in his elaborately appointed tent, which includes five crystal chandeliers in the reception room. Clinton also met with al-Faisal in Riyadh and later was flying to Jeddah on the Red Sea coast.

Clinton

Earlier in the day, in Doha, Qatar, Clinton spoke bluntly about Iranian behavior and what she called the Obama administration's view of Iran as increasingly dominated by the Revolutionary Guard Corps. Her statements may have been designed to deepen what U.S. analysts see as growing fissures between Iran's regular armed forces and the Revolutionary Guards, whose authority has widened since the disputed presidential election in June.

Last week the U.S. Treasury Department announced that it was freezing the assets in U.S. jurisdictions of a Revolutionary Guard general and four subsidiaries of a previously penalized construction company he runs because of their alleged involvement in producing and spreading weapons of mass destruction.

The Revolutionary Guard has long been a pillar of Iran's regime as a force separate from the ordinary armed forces. The Guard now has a hand in every critical area, including missile development, oil resources, dam building, road construction, telecommunications and nuclear technology.

Adviser to Americans admits link to El Salvador case

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—The man who served as legal adviser to 10 American missionaries jailed in Haiti on charges of child kidnapping acknowledged Monday that he is the suspect wanted in El Salvador on human smuggling accusations.

In a call from an unknown location, Jorge Puello told The Associated Press he was innocent of the accusations and that he and his Salvadoran wife had taken in young women from the Caribbean and Central America who had been abandoned by smugglers.

Salvadoran authorities want to prosecute Puello and his jailed wife for allegedly luring women and girls into prostitution with bogus offers of modeling jobs.

"I'm planning to go to El Salvador to tackle this problem," Puello said in a phone call arranged by his mother at his childhood home in the Dominican Republic. "I am not afraid to face the music."

Each new detail emerging about the past of the 32-year-old seems to add to the embarrassment and discomfort of the American missionaries that Puello volunteered to help, and who are still awaiting release from a Port-au-Prince jail.

On Monday, a Haitian prosecutor said a power outage delayed his printing of a recommendation to release the 10 Americans charged with child kidnapping. Because Tuesday is a national holiday, he doesn't expect the judge to issue a decision until Wednesday morning.

The detention of the Americans comes amid concerns about a possible increase in human trafficking out of Haiti following the Jan. 12 earthquake. Guards at the frontier between Haiti and the Dominican Republic rescued 22 children, between 7 and 16 years old, over the past two days from smugglers, said Francisco Gil Ramirez, chief of the Dominican Special Border Security Corps. Six suspected traffickers, all Haitian, were taken into custody, he said.

In the phone call with the AP, Puello said he had fled the Dominican Republic to avoid arrest.

The Dominican National Police, working with Interpol, said it had conducted several raids and interviews Monday in an attempt to locate Puello and detain him on the Salvadoran warrant.

Campus Life

Snow volunteers pitch in to shovel as schools try to reopen

By THEOLA LABBÉ-DEBOSE and TOM JACKMAN
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AP
Piqua City School buses sit covered in snow on Wednesday as the school was forced to use another calamity day due to heavy snowfall, Wednesday Feb. 10, 2010. The Piqua school has used three of its five days allowed by the state.

WASHINGTON—Local governments conceded that they had reached their snow-clearing limits Monday and made an unusual appeal to residents to spend the federal holiday shoveling sidewalks and school bus stops so that hundreds of schools could reopen Tuesday.

The request came as school systems surveyed bus stops and sidewalks still piled with snow and weighed whether to stay closed for yet another day — a decision certain to be debated by parents. In Alexandria, Fauquier and Prince William in Virgina, and in Anne Arundel, Howard, and Prince George's in Maryland, officials said Monday that not enough progress had been made to reopen safely. But the District of Columbia planned to reopen on time Tuesday, and Arlington and Fairfax counties in Virginia and Montgomery County in Maryland plan to open two hours late. Loudoun County, Va., is planning to open one hour late.

Fairfax School Superintendent Jack Dale made a recorded call Monday afternoon to the homes of many of the system's 173,000 students, asking parents to supervise their children Tuesday morning and stay with them at bus stops until the buses arrive. He warned that buses might run late or might not be able to make some stops.

"Have a contingency plan in case the bus is unable to make it to the bus stop," Dale advised in a message he also e-mailed to parents. To parents of students who walk to school, he said, "consider driving them yourself or you may opt to keep your student home." For those who normally drive their children, he suggested carpooling with neighbors to reduce the expected congestion at schools.

The thought of her students taking to the road to get to school prompted Karen Kenna, principal of Cardinal Forest Elementary in Fairfax, to issue a call for volunteers to clear more sidewalks at the sprawling campus. More than 50 parents and children turned out Monday, cheered on by Kenna, PTA President Jill Chastain and Supervisor John Cook, R-Braddock, who came bearing doughnuts for volunteers.

A cluster of fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade boys dutifully scooped snow from the school's playground and piled it high, stopping only occasionally to throw snowballs.

Taylor Whitesel, 13, graduated from the school last year but was back working alongside his brother, Alex, 10, a fifth-grader. Nearby, their mother, Jen Whitesel, scraped at a patch of stubborn ice. She said she picked the boys up from a sleepover and told them that they'd be spending the morning shoveling at the school.

"I didn't like that, but when my mom orders me to do something, I have to do it," Taylor said.

The District asked neighbors to create "shoveling teams," while volunteers in Alexandria worked alongside school staff to remove patches of ice and snow at neighborhood schools.

D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty called on able-bodied residents to do their part and help clean the city's sidewalks. "It is a public-safety issue. When we open schools this week, it is going to be tough for the kids to walk if the sidewalks are not shoveled," Fenty (D) said during a Monday news conference. He said that all of the city's major arteries and more than "90 percent" of residential streets had been cleared.

The federal government announced that it will open two hours late, with a liberal leave policy in effect.

District crews that hauled snow from last week's snowfall were back on duty Monday to treat cleared roadways. Montgomery reported that hard mounds of snow and ice blocked lanes on many streets.

Rockville, Md., Police Chief Terry Treschuk warned that pedestrians were choosing the street instead of icy sidewalks. "Everyone will have to share space and be careful," he said.

In Arlington, an army of front-end loaders, plows and dump trucks was out in neighborhoods Monday afternoon clearing critical bus routes in anticipation of the resumption of classes.

But despite the holiday work, Tuesday's commute was expected to be a grind, with most government workers pressing to get back to work for the first time in several days on constricted thoroughfares. Potentially icy roadways could disrupt public transportation schedules, and many parking lanes will likely be blocked.

"It will be like a Greyhound bus trying to squeeze through the eye of a needle," said John B. Townsend II, a AAA Mid-Atlantic spokesman, who predicted gridlock.

Fairfax County School Board member Daniel G. Storck (Mount Vernon) said he had driven around his district Monday and found that many bus stops still had "no easy place for kids to stand." He said he had received some e-mails from parents who were unhappy that Fairfax had reversed its decision to open schools Monday and others who were glad that schools were closed.

"It's not that anybody is falling down on the job," Storck said, it was simply that the mammoth amount of snow left "so few options" for getting the snow away from key sidewalks and bus stops.

Staff writers Sholnn Freeman, Hamil R. Harris, Jenna Johnson, Ed O'Keefe and Josh White contributed to this report.

As college costs rise, burden eased by aid

By DANIEL DE VISE
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WASHINGTON—If the $50,000-a-year price of a prestigious private college looks unreal to most families, well, it's not real. At least, not for most students.

The sticker price of private college has soared in the past five years, feeding a common perception that the most expensive schools are beyond the reach of most families. But net price—the amount the average student actually pays—has declined.

The higher education marketplace increasingly resembles a mall on the day after Thanksgiving. The published price of a college education has spiraled far above what the average student pays after subtracting grants, tuition discounts and tax benefits.

Published tuition, fees and living expenses at private nonprofit colleges average $35,640 in the 2009-10 academic year, according to the definitive annual report Trends in College Pricing by the nonprofit College Board. But net price averages $21,200. Adjusted for inflation, one has gone up. The other has gone down.

"The price, on the surface, is more than a middle-income family can pay," said Alison Rabil, assistant vice provost and director of financial aid at Duke University. "But we're not asking families to pay that amount."

College finance has grown increasingly complex. The phenomenon of rising sticker price is partly a marketing trick, partly a tool to redistribute the costs of college across income levels.

Tuition and fees have risen by nearly one-third at private nonprofit colleges since fall 2004, or 15 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars. But aid has risen faster.

The difference between sticker price and net price "may be the single most misunderstood fact" in higher education, said David Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. "Net tuition is only 45 percent of the advertised tuition. That's a pretty significant difference."

The most selective, well-endowed colleges dispense ever-greater sums of grant aid according to need—and rising tuition has broadened the definition of need. At the most expensive colleges, the term now applies to families making $200,000 a year.

Net price has declined by a few hundred dollars among private nonprofit colleges in the past five years, in inflation-adjusted dollars, according to the College Board analysis. Net price rose slightly in the 2009-10 academic year because of the economic downturn, as grant aid trailed tuition increases for the first time in several years, according to Sandy Baum, a College Board researcher.

Looking back over a decade instead of just five years, the net price of private college is only modestly higher now—up 7 percent—the report shows, even though tuition has swelled.

The net cost of public colleges has risen slightly in recent years because of dwindling state funds.

Most colleges don't advertise net cost, for the same reason hotels don't post their lowest rates on guest room doors. No two students are likely to be paying the same amount. Selective schools don't want to create false hope in aid applicants, and less selective schools don't want to diminish the prestige of a high sticker price.

"It's complicated, because students' unique situations make them eligible for different amounts of aid," said Haley Chitty, spokesman for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

To clear the air, the federal government will require every college to post a "net price calculator" on its Web site by August 2011. The calculator must estimate what a particular student will pay to attend the college, based on the family's finances and the school's aid budget.

Several schools, including Yale, Princeton, Amherst and Williams, have net price calculators or aid "estimators" on their Web sites. Estimating net price is comparatively simple at those schools, which have enormous endowments and dispense aid entirely based on a student's need and with fairly predictable results. At less wealthy, less selective schools, aid is often determined case by case.

Life & Style

Oscar nominees
share lunch, light and sober talk

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Sandra Bullock spoke of maintaining a good work ethic for years to come. Woody Harrelson spoke of soldiers. Carey Mulligan spoke about bumping butts with Quentin Tarantino.

This season's Academy Awards elite gathered Monday for the annual nominees luncheon, with table talk ranging from weighty matters such as the war on terror to lighter chatter like what to wear to the big show.

Before sharing a meal of poached pear gorgonzola salad, marinated chicken breast and apple tarts, nominees dropped by a news conference to talk about the whirlwind leading to the March 7 Oscar ceremony.

Bullock has been considered the frontrunner to win best actress for the football drama "The Blind Side" but said didn't take her nomination for granted.

"Does anybody expect a nomination? I certainly didn't," said Bullock, an enduring box-office draw who had never before been nominated for an Oscar. "I'm really very amazed and thankful to be here, because I'd like to work hard for another 10, 15 years. So if this is what that means, bring it."

Harrelson, a supporting-actor nominee for the homefront war drama "The Messenger," and Jeremy Renner, a best-actor contender for the Iraq war saga "The Hurt Locker," said their roles instilled fresh respect for troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I walk up to any military personnel I can find, and I shake their hand and I thank them for their service," Renner said.

Before "The Messenger," Harrelson said he generally had viewed the war and the troops fighting it in the same light.

"I always kind of lumped it all together, and it wasn't until I had the opportunity through the shooting of `The Messenger' to spend a lot of time with people in the Army that I started to realize how amazing these people are," Harrelson said. "As much as I have come to love the warrior, I still loathe the war."

Harrelson had a concise reply when asked if he ever expected to earn an Oscar nomination for a film released the same year he played a gleeful slayer of flesh-eating fiends in "Zombieland."

"Short answer, no," Harrelson said.

Mulligan, a best-actress nominee for the British drama "An Education," said awards season has been a thrill because of the Hollywood idols with whom she has rubbed elbows, including Bullock and fellow best-actress contenders Meryl Streep ("Julie & Julia") and Helen Mirren ("The Last Station").

"They've all been so unbelievably kind and not intimidating," Mulligan said. "You have them on such a pedestal and you think they could be a nightmare if they wanted to because they're so good. And they're just lovely."

Also among the idols she has met is Tarantino, a directing nominee for best-picture contender "Inglourious Basterds." Moments earlier, Mulligan said, she and Tarantino had accidentally bumped butts while milling about among the luncheon crowd.

Bullock, Mulligan and Gabourey Sidibe, a best-actress nominee for the Harlem drama "Precious: Based on the Novel `Push' By Sapphire," said they have barely started to consider what to wear to the Oscars, one of the world's top fashion bashes.

"It's two weeks away, and my stomach's hurting over it a little bit," Sidibe said. "I'm a little scared."

Contenders posed for the annual Oscar "class picture"—a group photo of all 121 nominees at the luncheon.

The crowd included ex-spouses Kathryn Bigelow, director of "The Hurt Locker," and James Cameron, director of the sci-fi sensation "Avatar." Though the best-picture field was doubled to 10 films this season, the contest for top prize is considered a two-movie race between "Avatar" and "The Hurt Locker."

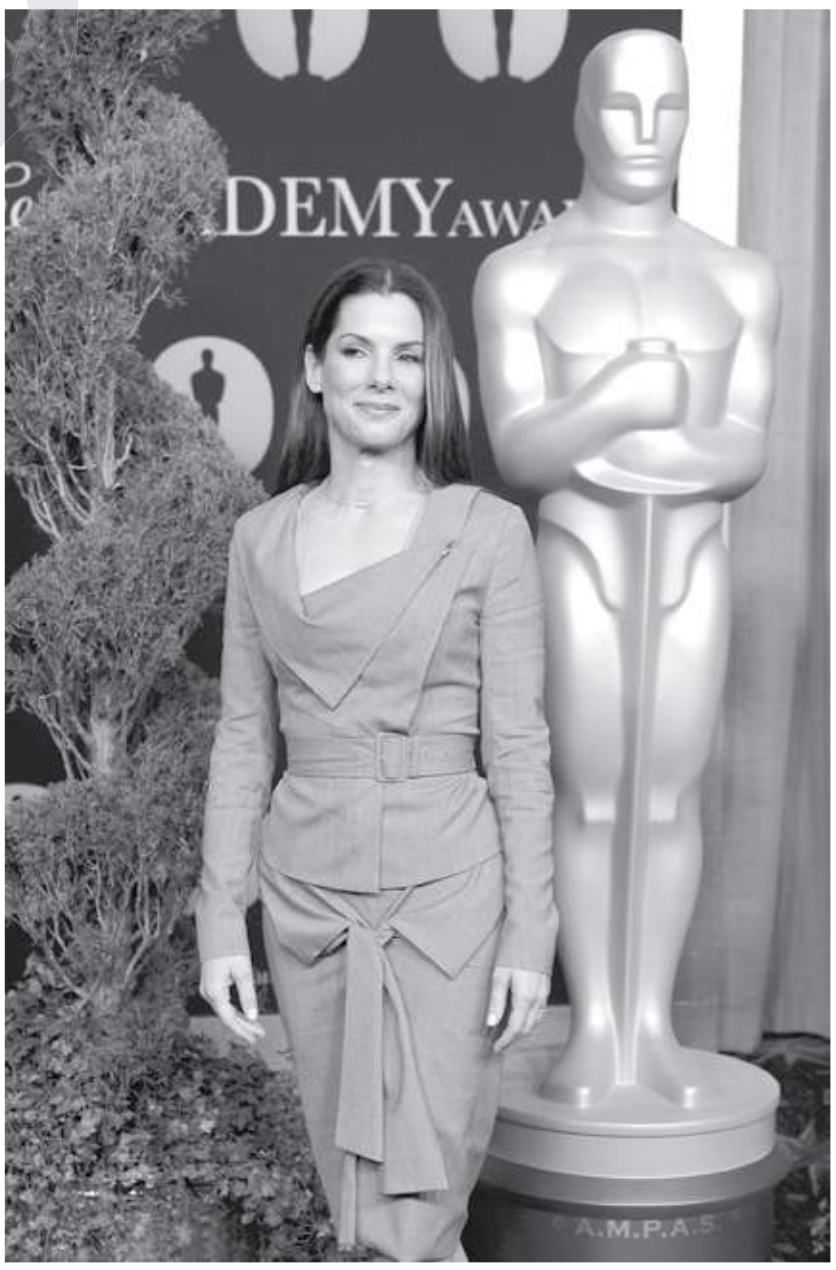
Others on hand included acting nominees George Clooney, Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick ("Up in the Air"), Morgan Freeman ("Invictus"), Jeff Bridges and Maggie Gyllenhaal ("Crazy Heart") and Colin Firth ("A Single Man").

The Oscar show had its best TV ratings ever when Cameron's blockbuster "Titanic" dominated the awards 12 years ago. Oscar organizers hope that having "Avatar" and hits such as "Up," "The Blind Side" and "District 9" in the mix will coax more viewers to tune in to a show that saw ratings fall to an all-time low two years ago.

"This year, it seems to be more lively, more interesting than it has been in a while," Tom Sherak, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, told nominees during the luncheon.

Gyllenhaal, a supporting-actress nominee for "Crazy Heart," said she got some valuable advice from brother Jake Gyllenhaal, a past nominee for "Brokeback Mountain," about not letting the Oscars go to her head.

"He said, `There isn't actually anything at the end of the rainbow,'" Gyllenhaal said. "He said, `It's a lot of fun and enjoy it in that spirit. If you make it mean too much more than that, you'll probably go astray.'"



AP

Sandra Bullock, an Academy Award nominee for Best Actress for her performance in "The Blind Side," arrives at the Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif., Monday, Feb. 15, 2010.

Walters' 29th annual Oscar special to be her last

NEW YORK (AP)—Barbara Walters says next month's Oscar interview special will be her last, ending a 29-year tradition.

Walters made the announcement Monday on her weekday talk show, "The View." She says she feels like she has "been there, done that."

Walters' farewell Oscar special is tied to ABC's Oscar Awards telecast and will air March 7. It will feature Academy Award Best Actress nominee Sandra Bullock and Best Supporting Actress nominee Mo'Nique, along with a retrospective of past specials.

Walters says she will continue her other annual ABC News special, "The 10 Most Fascinating People," as well as co-hosting "The View" and other assignments.

AP

In this May 5, 2009 file photo, Barbara Walters attends the Time 100 Gala in New York. Walters on Monday, Feb. 15, 2010 said next month's Oscar interview special will be her last, ending a 29-year tradition.

Theater: Segregated airmen fight to fly in WWII

NEW YORK (AP)—"Black Angels Over Tuskegee," is a serious history lesson told with humor.

Based on true events, this powerful play, on view at off-Broadway's St. Luke's Theatre, is about brotherhood among the segregated World War II pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen. These men distinguished themselves with honor despite disdainful treatment by their own government, the American public and the military.

Using the story of a group of determined cadets as they go through aviator training and then military assignments, playwright and director Layon Gray vividly depicts the struggles and achievements of the first black military airmen.

By way of introduction, a young, unnamed narrator (Antonio D. Charity) says he will tell a story "as it was told to me." He explains, with heavy irony, that the U.S. Congress had done a study on the "Negro Soldier," finding that "he was lazy, had a small brain, there is no way possible that he could learn to do high-tech work especially fly a plane."

We then meet six would-be cadets in a waiting room, eager for their chance to take the qualifying exam to join what was then called the Army Air Forces. Most are soon revealed to be college graduates, and all have an excellent grasp of the subject matter in the aircraft manual they have studied.

The exam location, an air base a long way off in Utah, is just the first of many indignities the military will put these men through, but they cope with humor and fortitude. Their goal is to get to Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, a segregated training base built by African-Americans, where they can finally learn to fly airplanes and realize their dream to fight for their country.

Gray portrays cadet Quentin Dorsey, a likable man hiding a disability and whose diary of his military experience forms the narrative. The author has a natural feel for dialogue and has created seven distinct, believable young men—all well-acted by the spirited cast.

Thom Scott II plays Quentin's fun-loving, yet protective older brother, Abe. Gray and Scott project a warmly competitive sibling camaraderie that resonates throughout the play.

Cadet Elijah Sams, a famous, retired boxer who plans to someday become a teacher, is played with grace and dignity by Lamman Rucker. Elijah takes a leadership role within the group, constantly reminding his comrades that they are "fighting for freedom."

Derek Shaun ably plays the one sour note, an aloof, unfriendly cadet. Shaun makes his unpleasant character compelling, although his eventual back-story revelation comes as a tension-reliever.

The cast is rounded out by Demetrius Grosse as gambler Percival Nash, and David Wendell Boykins as music-loving Theodore Franks. The white commander, Major Roberts, is played with a testy but compassionate air by Rich Skidmore.

AP

In this theater publicity image released by David Gersten & Associates, clockwise from bottom left, Layon Gray, David Wendell Boykins, Lamman Rucker, Thom Scott II, Demetrius Grosse and Derek Shaun star in "Black Angels over Tuskegee," playing at off-Broadway's St. Luke's Theatre in New York.

Disgraced in skirt scandal, woman is Carnival star

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— Geisy Arruda's transformation from a student famed for being kicked out of college for wearing a miniskirt to Carnival queen hit a snag late Monday when she was helped from her float complaining of heat.

Wearing a "Carnivalized" version of the very dress that got her expelled last October, the 20-year-old Brazilian who recently had four cosmetic surgeries had big smiles and waves for the crowd when the parade started.

But by the end, the dress modeled on the clothing that rocketed her to fame came back to haunt her.

Television footage showed Arruda being helped off the float she was riding after 80-minutes of parading in Rio's sweltering summer heat, in tears, tugging at the red-sequined garment and asking for water.

"I need to take this off, it's too hot!" Arruda was heard telling a parade official.

Lying down on the floor, she told the Globo television network that, despite getting ill from the heat, the experience "was good, it was great."

She received help at a medical office, where she rested and drank water, and eventually recovered.

Arruda, a jovial blonde from a poor family in Sao Paulo, made headlines across the globe last fall when she was expelled for wearing a miniskirt to class.

Three months and four plastic surgeries later, she re-emerged this Carnival season, parading in the nation's biggest parties.

Standing atop a gilded Carnival float resembling a massive English palace, Arruda danced gingerly. She said a doctor warned her not to exert herself too much because of the recent cosmetic surgeries.

Holding court with the media just before her samba group's parade began, Arruda flaunted her short, red sequined dress, a design inspired by what she was wearing the day she was booted from university.

Her face dotted with gold sparkle and red imitation gems, Arruda bantered about the joys of Carnival, and how she turned a bad episode in her life into something good.

AP

Geisy Arruda performs during the Porto da Pedra samba school during carnival parade at the Sambadrome, in Rio de Janeiro, Monday, Feb.15, 2010.

Above all, she emphasized how she loves having her photo taken, and was looking forward to parading before 80,000 spectators and hundreds of photographers.

"I confess, I'm a vain girl, and the changes I've made have given me the confidence I need to dance in these Carnivals," Arruda told The Associated Press. "The entire world is looking at every part of you. They demand a lot of Brazilian women during Carnival, you have to be perfect, impeccable.

"I'm getting there," she added, "but it is a difficult level to reach."

Arruda managed a respectable dance, but was upstaged at times by a policewoman who made headlines in Rio for accepting an invitation to be a Carnival muse for the same Porto da Pedra samba group.

Julia Liers, dressed in sparkling heels, red thigh-highs, a massive blood-red feather back piece and not much else, put on a samba clinic just 10 feet (3 meters) in front of Arruda's float. She sensually stalked the parade grounds, delighting those in the crowd, especially the men.

"Is that the cop?" one man was heard saying. "Oh, man. I want to be locked up then!"

A female spectator eyed Arruda, perhaps with some envy.

"She should enjoy it, but the girl doesn't samba very well," Rafaela Mara said. "A girl like me from one of the slums could dance a lot better than her."

Joao Victor Silva, a drummer for Porto da Pedra, was thrilled to have Arruda in the group. "I think it's inspiring how she turned a terrible situation into something extremely positive."

On Oct. 22, Arruda was forced to cover herself with a professor's white coat and was escorted from class by police amid a hail of insults and curses from other students. Videos of the incident went viral on the Internet.

The uproar caused her college to take disciplinary action - against her, not those who belittled the jovial blonde. She was expelled for what officials called provocative behavior in a country widely known for revealing clothing.

A national outcry ensued, and Arruda was quickly reinstated.

But she never returned, saying initially that she feared for her safety. Instead she went under the wing of a few stylists and hairdressers in Sao Paulo who saw her battle as one against sexism and discrimination in Brazil's macho culture.

Arruda's physical transformation came through liposuction that removed 11 pounds (5 kilograms) of fat from her abdominal region. Part of that fat was then injected into her face to make her cheekbones more prominent. And this being Brazil, much of the rest was added to her rear to give it more oomph. She also had breast augmentation surgery.

It all was paid for through donations collected by her hairdresser, Arruda said.

Before Rio's Carnival, she danced in Salvador—a close contender for wildest Carnival— atop a massive truck outfitted with giant speakers.

On Sunday she hit her native Sao Paulo for the city's parades, wearing a large, purple feather headdress and little else.

That Arruda is even in the limelight is a testament to the ability to recreate oneself in Brazilian society, some argue. Others see her as a product of reality-television culture in which any bizarre incident can turn someone into a celebrity.

"I totally agree with her taking complete advantage of this situation to give herself a better life," said 23-year-old Sabrina Bispo, who was getting some sun on Ipanema beach. "She comes from a humble family, and I challenge anyone in a similar situation to say they would not do the same."

Brian Bedford to play Lady Bracknell on Broadway

AP

In this file theater publicity image released by Stratford Shakespeare Festival, cast, from left, Sara Topham as Gwendolen Fairfax, Ben Carlson as John Worthing, Brian Bedford as Lady Bracknell and Sarah Dodd as Miss Prism are shown in a scene from the Stratford Shakespeare Festival production of, "The Importance of Being Earnest."

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Bracknell is bound for Broadway.

One of Oscar Wilde's most famous characters will be part of the Roundabout Theatre Company's season next year when it presents a revival of "The Importance of Being Earnest" starring Brian Bedford as the English society matron with a fondness for scathing remarks and flamboyant feathered hats.

Bedford will also direct the production, which was first seen at Canada's Stratford Festival last summer.

Roundabout artistic director Todd Haimes said Monday the revival would open in the winter of 2011 at the American Airlines Theatre and would feature some of the actors from the Canadian production.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Maria Arriola Benavente Atalig

May 19, 1935 — February 14, 2010

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: Ignacio Villagomez & Rita Arriola Benavente
Daughter: Phyllis Atalig Leuta
Brother: Jose Arriola Benavente
Sister: Trinidad Arriola Benavente
Sister-In-Law: Magdalena C. Benavente
Niece & Nephews: Norbert, Francisca & Paul Lee Camacho

She is survived by her:

Former-Husband: Felipe Quitugua Atalig
Son-in-law: Masina Leuta

Children:
Ron B. and Anne S. Atalig (Roanne Isa and Ron Napu)
Eric B. Atalig (Kayla and Brent Parsons, Eric Devin and Kianna)

Grand Children:
Phyllisina L. and Calistro Reyes, Jr. (Toa, Malosi & Vaaina Eling)
Vaaia Leuta and Andrew Duenas (Mitiana)
Tanielu A. Leuta and Tavita A. Leuta

Caregiver: Nelsie Lasaga

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Martina K. Benavente & Family
Eleuterio A. Benavente
Dolores B. Camacho & Family
Veronica A. Benavente
Irmina B. Cox & Family
Estanislao A. and Abelina Benavente & Family
Luis A. and Susan Benavente & Family

Daily Mass is being offered at 6 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.
St. Jude Church at 6:00 p.m. Rosary immediately following the evening Mass.

On Monday, February 22, 2010, viewing will be at Borja Funeral Home from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 10:00a.m. Interment service at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your Prayers is greatly appreciated.

From The Family

Roommate shares more than space in college dorm room

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I walked into my dorm room and heard my roommate having sex in the bathroom. I promptly called my girlfriend to ask if she wanted to meet me. No sooner had I entered her number than I heard my girlfriend's ring tone coming from our bathroom. It was her.

I clicked off, left the room and stayed at a friend's for the night. Please tell me, did I do the right thing and what do I do now?

BETRAYED IN TORONTO

DEAR BETRAYED: I'm sorry you walked out. You should have ordered a pizza and invited some (true) friends over so they could be there when the two of them emerged.

Here's what to do now: Tell your girlfriend the romance is history, and start looking for a roommate with enough character and intellect that he understands boundaries.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am shocked at what my young children tell me they have overheard while other "carpool moms" chat on their cell phones as they ferry children back and forth to school. Cell phones have opened up a whole new adult world to children.

My children have heard mothers bad-mouth teachers, other parents and even their classmates. They have also had to listen to adult arguments that were none of their business. In one extreme case, my son had to endure hearing the carpool mom relay the circumstances of his own father's sudden death! Can you imagine how painful that was?

Parents, please remember that little children have big ears and listen to everything you say!

HANG IT UP IN COLUMBIA, S.C.

DEAR HANG IT UP: Thank you for writing. As tempted as I am to use your letter as yet another reason to discourage the use of cell phones and other electronic devices while driving, no state can legislate that its citizens use common sense. Too bad.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please warn all those poor trusting souls out there never to give out their passwords—ever!

I work in an office with about 20 people, mostly middle-aged women, many of whom are going through divorces. I have noticed a disturbing trend—cyberstalking. Several of the women use passwords provided to them in the past, when the relationships were good, to access personal data.

One woman accesses her husband's bank account so they can all have a good laugh at how he's struggling financially. Another has her ex's e-mail and Facebook passwords and delights in telling everyone about the angry messages being left by the ex's new girlfriend. The latest is the use of an ex-husband's password to spy on his online dating account.

Tell your readers out there to safeguard their passwords. Don't give them out no matter how much they trust someone. But if they do, when the relationship ends, change each and every one—no matter how inconsequential.

SICK TO MY STOMACH IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR SICK: I'm sure your letter will cause readers of both sexes to do a double take. No one can ever be too careful with personal information. Revealing a password is like giving someone the keys to your house, your safe-deposit box and your diary.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Sutherland's illness causes brief shutdown of '24'

NEW YORK (AP)—Production of the Fox network thriller "24" has been temporarily shut down so that star and executive producer Kiefer (KEE'-fur) Sutherland can undergo surgery.

Shooting is expected to resume next week with Sutherland's return. Twentieth Century Fox Television would not comment on the nature of Sutherland's ailment, referring to it only as "a medical procedure." The Los Angeles Times first reported the production halt and says Sutherland suffered from a ruptured cyst.

About six more weeks of production time remains for the season. Fox says no disruption is expected in airing the episodes.

Sutherland plays counter-terrorist hero Jack Bauer on the series. The show is now in its eighth season.

Sutherland

Kevin Smith oversized? ejected from flight

AP

In this Oct. 20, 2008 file photo Kevin Smith arrives at the premiere of "Zach and Miri Make A Porno" in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kevin Smith says he's "way fat," but that shouldn't stop him from flying.

The director and actor says a pilot ejected him from a Southwest Airlines flight from Oakland to Burbank, Calif., saying he didn't fit properly in a single seat.

Smith raised a stink about the incident on his Twitter page Sunday, saying "I'm way fat, but I'm not there just yet," and "If you look like me, you may be ejected from Southwest Air."

He posted a picture of himself sitting on the plane with his cheeks puffed out.

Southwest says it "Customer of Size" policy require travelers must be able to fit safely and comfortably in one seat or make other arrangements.

After a storm of angry online comments from Smith and his fans, the airline issued an apology first from its own Twitter account and later in a statement on its Web site titled "Not So Silent Bob," a jovial jab at the Silent Bob character Smith plays in many of his films.

"We would like to echo our tweets and again offer our heartfelt apologies to you," the statement said.

The airline said it also accommodated Smith on a later flight, gave him a $100 voucher and apologized by phone.

Both Smith and the airline acknowledged that he had bought two seats for his original flight from Oakland, where he had spoken at the Macworld Expo conference.

But he was flying standby in order to catch an earlier flight, and only one was available.

Smith insisted that he was still able to put both armrests down and buckle his seat belt, which is Southwest's standard.

Smith is the director of the new Bruce Willis movie "Cop Out," and previously directed the films "Clerks" and "Chasing Amy."

Lily Tomlin joins the ranks of celebrity producers

NEW YORK (AP)—Lily Tomlin is going off-Broadway—as a producer.

Tomlin and her longtime collaborator, Jane Wagner, will join the producing team presenting Leslie Jordan's one-man show "My Trip Down the Pink Carpet." It will open April 19 at the Midtown Theater.

On Monday, Tomlin says of Jordan: "I have seldom spent time working with anyone who so engaged me." Jordan is best known for his portrayal of Beverley Leslie on television's "Will & Grace."

Tomlin and Wagner are joining the ranks of celebrity stage producers in New York. Elton John and his partner, David Furnish, are backing the play "Next Fall," opening on Broadway next month. And rap superstar Jay-Z, Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith are involved in the current Broadway musical hit "Fela!"

AP

In this Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009 picture, Lily Tomlin attends the International Documentary Association 27th Annual Nominees Reception in Beverly Hills, Calif.

'Hangover,' 'Up,' 'Hurt Locker' win editing honors

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The war story "The Hurt Locker," the bachelor bash "The Hangover" and the animated tale "Up" have earned top honors from the American Cinema Editors.

The group honored "The Hurt Locker" for best editing on a dramatic feature film, while "The Hangover" won in the comedy or musical category and "Up" took the animation award.

"The Hurt Locker" won out over four other nominees that included sci-fi blockbuster "Avatar."

Also among winners Sunday night was the dolphin-slaughter investigation "The Cove," which won for best edited documentary.

Television winners includes "30 Rock," "Dexter" and the TV movie "Grey Gardens."

Calif. police make arrest in guitar maker's death

ROHNERT PARK, Calif. (AP)—Police in California have arrested a suspect in the killing of prominent guitar maker Taku Sakashta.

Police arrested 28-year-old Joshua Rhea Begley early Monday in Rohnert Park on suspicion of murder, burglary and evading police. He is being held without bail.

The 43-year-old Sakashta was an acclaimed maker of string instruments - known as a luthier. His guitars fetched up to $30,000.

Police found his body Friday in bushes near his shop in Rohnert Park, about 48 miles north of San Francisco.

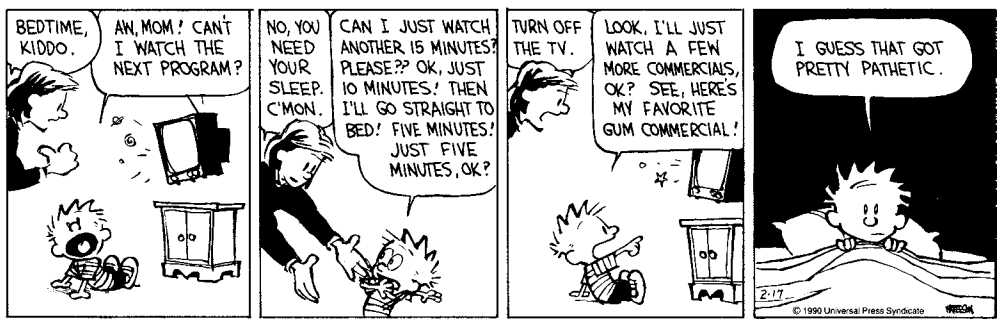
Authorities say Begley's criminal record dates back to 1999, and he served time in jail in 2000, 2001, 2004 and 2005.

Police say witnesses have linked Begley to Sakashta's killing. Authorities haven't released any other details.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BEDTIME, KIDDO.
AW, MOM! CAN'T I WATCH THE NEXT PROGRAM?
NO, YOU NEED YOUR SLEEP. C'MON.
CAN I JUST WATCH ANOTHER 15 MINUTES? PLEASE?? OK, JUST 10 MINUTES! THEN I'LL GO STRAIGHT TO BED! FIVE MINUTES! JUST FIVE MINUTES, OK?
TURN OFF THE TV.
LOOK, I'LL JUST WATCH A FEW MORE COMMERCIALS, OK? SEE, HERE'S MY FAVORITE GUM COMMERCIAL!
I GUESS THAT GOT PRETTY PATHETIC.
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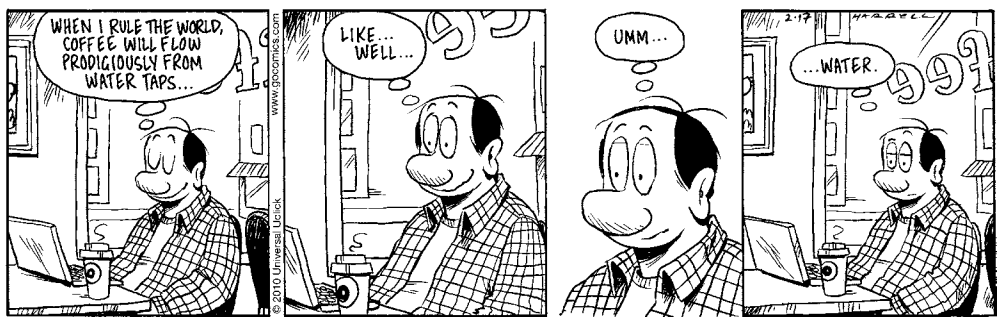
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

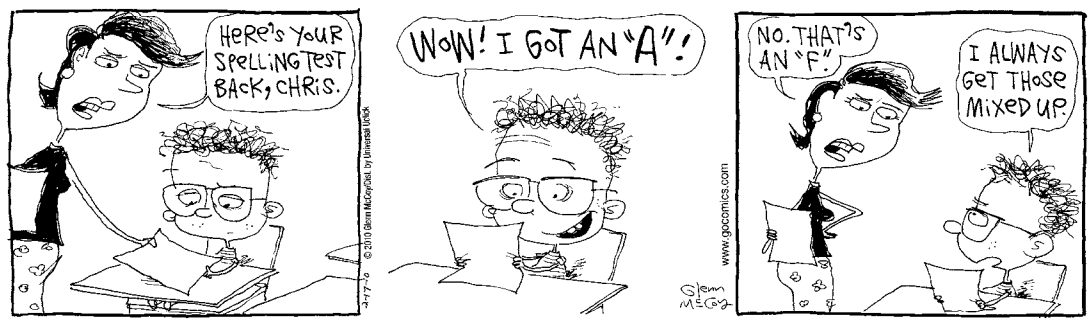
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HERE'S YOUR SPELLING TEST BACK, CHRIS.
WOW! I GOT AN "A"!
NO. THAT'S AN "F."
I ALWAYS GET THOSE MIXED UP.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

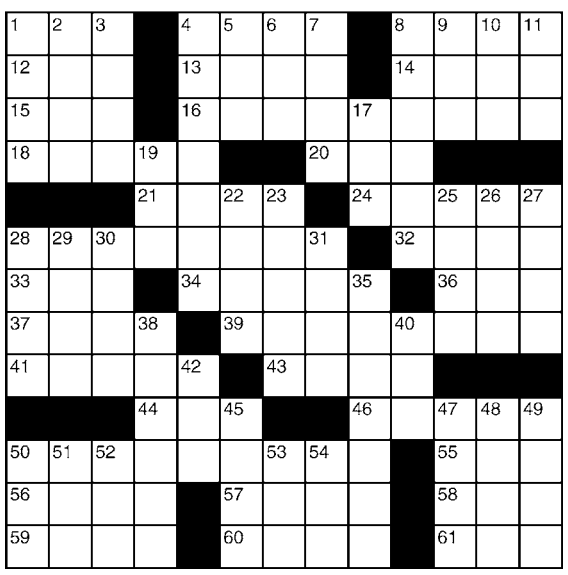
ACROSS
1 Burst
4 Old fogy
8 Gets on in years
12 Latin 101 word
13 Always
14 Hobbling
15 Zero
16 It might not indicate true worth
18 Seat at the bar
20 Rowing tool
21 Unpaid amount
24 Eccentric
28 King, queen or jack
32 "— Breckinridge"
33 Woodshaping tool
34 Cornered
36 Brooch
37 Use a rotary phone
39 Friendster alternative
41 Scatter
43 Medicinal amount
44 Petrol
46 Lure
50 Means of maintaining dignity
55 Verily
56 In due time
57 Infamous lyre player
58 Recipe meas.
59 Peel
60 Remain
61 Weeding tool

DOWN
1 Skillets
2 Leave out
3 Horseback sport
4 Ricochet
5 Eggs
6 Calendar abbr.
7 Sandwich cookie
8 Old-style call to arms
9 Cowboy's sweetie
10 Ostrich's cousin
11 Witness
17 Moving truck
19 Praiseful poem
22 John Candy's role in "Spaceballs"
23 Tire pattern
25 Glitch in print
26 Threesome
27 Pull hard
28 Crazes
29 Mine entrance
30 Despot
31 Erte's art style
35 Ruin
38 Table with a map
40 Spelling contest
42 Existed
45 Without
47 Tale of the gods
48 Mexican money
49 Recording
50 Distant
51 Singer DiFranco
52 Opposed to
53 Animal doc
54 Mound stat

Solution time: 21 mins.

T	E	M	P	■	A	R	A	B	■	B	A	A
A	R	I	A	■	S	O	D	A	■	I	L	L
B	A	L	L	Y	H	O	O	S	■	L	O	P
■	■	■	L	I	E	D	■	S	A	L	E	S
G	A	B	O	N	■	■	L	I	L	Y	■	■
U	S	E	R	■	C	R	O	S	S	B	A	R
A	I	L	■	H	O	I	S	T	■	U	R	I
M	A	L	L	A	R	D	S	■	E	D	I	T
■	■	Y	A	N	K	■	■	L	A	D	L	E
S	T	A	N	D	■	G	E	A	R	■	■	■
E	E	C	■	B	O	L	L	Y	W	O	O	D
R	A	H	■	A	R	E	S	■	I	N	T	O
A	L	E	■	G	E	N	E	■	G	E	T	S

Yesterday's answer 2-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, 29; Paris Hilton, 29; Kelly Carlson, 34; Billie Joe Armstrong, 38

Happy Birthday: Take control and offer leadership. Put your ideas to the test. You should not back down from anything or anyone. You have insight into what you must do to make things work to your benefit. A passionate approach to whatever you do will help you gain respect and support. Your numbers are 4, 10, 16, 25, 27, 30, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be tempted to blurt out how you feel and make moves that you will regret. You will do far better putting your energy into helping or entertaining instead of complaining. Put stubbornness aside. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Avoid getting involved in any formalities with authority figures who can influence what you can and cannot do. Bend and give a little. A democratic approach to whatever you want will far surpass trying to bully someone into something. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do things because you want to do them, not because someone else is involved. Show your enthusiasm by offering your services but don't let others take advantage of you. Don't let emotional stress stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You have so much going for you and, if you show a little restraint when it comes to your sensitivity and emotions, you will impress the people around you with your capabilities. Don't let an added responsibility at home stand in the way of professional productivity. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can formulate your ideas and start the process of getting things rolling. Don't get angry with someone for not wanting to take part in your plans. Any indiscretion with money matters will meet with opposition. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't be tempted to make a fast move, due to emotional reasons, that will disrupt your home life and future. Love is in the stars but you must move slowly and nurture the relationship if you want it to be lasting. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let depression get you down; get moving. There is a lot to be gained through networking and socializing with people in the same industry as you. Your ideas will be respected if you share them with colleagues. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You cannot fix some of the personal things going on in your life right now, but you can focus on making the right changes for a brighter future. It's a waste of time to get angry. Travel will bring you greater clarity. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may be feeling optimistic about your surroundings but, before you empty the baggage you brought with you, think about what you have left unfinished. You should probably backtrack and clear the air with someone before you move on. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): If you rely too heavily on others, you will fall short of your goals. You should be putting more effort into your past and present relationships. You cannot move forward until you have taken care of unfinished business. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be honest with yourself and others if you want to make positive moves. Embrace what ails you and get rid of any habits that have been stagnating your life. You'll meet someone special while tending to your problems. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Pushing too hard will cause problems in an important partnership. The more open you are about your likes, dislikes and needs, the better the reception you will receive. Romantic opportunities will develop. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a frank and passionate person who says exactly what you think, regardless of the consequences. You aren't afraid to push hard and to take on any adversity.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	4	3					
9				2		4	1	
3			8		9			
2		6		8	3			
	1		7	5		3		
		3	4		6	1		
	6			3	8		4	2
	3					8	7	
						5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	5	2	6	3	8	9	7	1
6	7	8	1	9	5	3	4	2
3	1	9	2	4	7	5	6	8
5	9	6	4	1	3	8	2	7
8	2	3	5	7	6	4	1	9
1	4	7	8	2	9	6	3	5
7	8	1	3	5	4	2	9	6
2	3	5	9	6	1	7	8	4
9	6	4	7	8	2	1	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CYRUS THE GREAT **Solution: 7 letters**

A	A	Y	R	S	E	L	T	T	A	B	S	M	Y	S
L	C	N	R	E	S	U	C	C	E	S	S	O	R	S
P	I	H	S	O	G	N	A	T	I	O	N	N	A	E
A	A	B	A	H	T	I	P	D	A	K	K	A	T	N
S	N	L	E	E	A	S	M	E	D	E	S	R	I	D
A	E	R	A	R	M	N	I	E	N	Y	S	C	L	L
R	R	T	E	C	A	E	N	H	H	O	A	H	I	O
G	Y	M	A	M	E	T	N	P	N	E	R	Y	M	B
A	C	E	Y	T	U	O	O	I	E	G	D	H	(A)	A
D	A	M	R	N	S	S	V	R	D	R	I	(I)	T	B
E	L	I	I	E	O	C	A	M	B	Y	(S)	E	S	Y
G	D	T	B	L	G	I	T	E	B	(A)	R	I	R	L
Y	Y	I	I	U	R	I	I	M	A	G	I	I	A	O
P	R	H	K	I	N	G	O	T	P	I	R	C	S	N
T	P	O	W	E	R	T	N	N	E	R	I	P	M	E

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 2/17

Achaemenid, Akkad, Anshan, Army, Asia, Babylon, Battles, Boldness, Cambyses, Cyrenaica, Egypt, Empire, History, Impact, Innovation, King, Liberator, Magi, Medes, Military, Monarchy, Nation, Nubia, Palace, Pasargade, Persia, Philosophy, Power, Regime, Region, Reign, Rise, Sardis, Script, Side, State, Successors, Sumer, Throne, Time, Tomb, Tribes, Unity

Yesterday's Answer: Digging

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free. 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	COMBO (PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

GET
GET
GET ME BOWLINE
GET

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Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in this section

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

CAREFREE LAWN CLEANING SERVICE
285-6640

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution:
Forget-me-not

DICKERSON & QUINN
INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS
A Tan Holdings Company

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is a leading distributor of quality consumer Goods. We have an immediate opening for an

ACCOUNTING CLERK
Accounts Receivable / Payable

- ❑ A/R experience preferred, ideally in wholesale or similar industry.
- ❑ Computer skills necessary preferably with experience in ACCPAC / SBT or similar accounting system.
- ❑ You should be result oriented and must be well organized, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
- ❑ The succesful applicant only will be required to provide a police clearance.
- ❑ Applicants must be able to legally work in the U.S.A.

We offer an excellent pay and benefits package.
Dickerson & Quinn / D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is an equal opportunity employer.

For more information, please call 322 2706, or apply in person at CTSI Building, Lower Base. Fax 322 2711.
E-mail max@dqsaipan.com

tii · Coca-Cola · Foremost · SUBWAY eat fresh. · Glimpses

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS
JOIN OUR TEAM!!!

Position: Accountant

- Prepares financial statement reports & cost analysis
- Reconciles bank statements
- Prepares tax reports & payroll processing
- Directs the maintenance of general and subsidiary ledgers, accounts receivables, accounts payables, revenue distribution, depreciation, cost, property and operating expenses and insurance records.
- Prepares budgets, control inventories and other related accounting reports.

Requirements:

- At least four (4) years experience in accountancy
- Graduate with Accounting degree from accredited institution preferred
- Excellent Computer literacy is a MUST
- Strong communication skills (fluent English speaking & writing)

Please submit resume with recent photo to:
Human Resources Department
2/F Transpac Business Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

OUR GROUP IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

POI Aviation
A TanHoldings Company

Passenger Service Agent

Our company provides a wide range of ground handling services for both private as well as commercial aircrafts. We are currently in need of a Passenger Service Agent with the following requirements:

- Korean or Nihongo speaking
- Minimum of High School Diploma or GED certificate
- Must possess customer service experience and excellent interpersonal skills
- Must be computer literate and able to handle up to 70 lbs. of baggage
- Must be legally eligible for employment in the United States

The successful candidate will be responsible for providing service and assistance to airline passengers. His/her job will entail handling reservations and passenger check-ins including the examination of passenger documentation to determine destinations and to assign boarding passes.

Interested applicants may send their resume to:
thchr@tanholdings.com

POI is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Ever thought of a Career in Healthcare?
Are you outgoing, bright and friendly?

You may have what it takes to join the team of Eye Care Assistants at Marianas Eye Institute!

No healthcare experience needed. We will train you!

Requirements:

- US Citizen or IR Status
- High school diploma with a GPA of 3.3 or higher
- Police Clearance
- Previous work experience
- Computer Skills
- Credit Check
- Bright and friendly
- Letter of recommendation from previous employer

Benefits:

- Competitive salary
- Health Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Productivity Bonuses
- Profit Sharing
- Generous Leave Benefits
- Paid Holidays

Great work environment, great benefits!

Apply in person at...

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Garapan, across from 13 Fisherman Monument
No Phone Calls Please

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System (PSS), Human Resources Office shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2009-092** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **CIP COORDINATOR (Chief Engineer) Re-Announcement I**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00**
Opening Date: **February 2, 2010** Closing Date: **February 17, 2010**
Location: PSS – **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a BA degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering, or related field, plus at least five (5) years experience in construction management, architecture, or related field; CNMI License preferred.

****The complete job description can be obtained at the PSS-Human Resources Office, 3rd Floor-Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill.**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Recruitment For Zoning Administrator

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrator. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Zoning Administrator manages the Zoning Office, which is responsible for processing permit inquiries and applications, maintaining record and data systems, inspecting and enforcing compliance, interpreting the Saipan Zoning Law with assistance of legal counsel, educating the public, staffing the Zoning Board, coordinating with other agencies, preparing updates to the Saipan Zoning Law and Board Regulations, preparing budgets and tracking expenditures, and preparing reports and grant applications (see Section 310 of the Saipan Zoning Law at www.zoning.gov.mp).

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 became effective on February 1, 2008. Since then, the Zoning Office has processed about 6000 inquiries and zoning permits. The Zoning Board is committed to professionally administering the Law; maintaining close contact with elected officials, the public, other agencies and the business community; and adapting the Law to changing circumstances.

The minimum requirements for the position are a baccalaureate degree, but preferably a graduate degree, in planning or a related field such as engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, public administration and five years of progressive experience in land use planning, comprehensive planning or land use administration (CNMI Zoning Code § 7222).

Preferred Competencies: Knowledge of zoning and land use control and planning theory and practice including preparation, administration and enforcement. Knowledge of records management techniques including permit record systems, databases and Geographic Information Systems. Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Internet browsers. Skill in researching printed and Internet documents and ability to quickly compile and analyze information and prepare concise reports. Ability to supervise and motivate others and to cooperatively work in a team setting. Ability to work effectively with Zoning Board members; political, business and community leaders; and with the general public in cross-cultural settings with people with English as a second language. Previous experience administering zoning laws, regulations or ordinances. Ability to balance competing work demands and set priorities. Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing in English. Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain. Work experience in Micronesia, preferably the Northern Mariana Islands, and have working knowledge about laws, government regulations and administrative procedures is an advantage.

The maximum annual salary is $50,000. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp.

Application submittals should be addressed to Herminia Fusco, Chair, Commonwealth Zoning Board and must be received at the Zoning Office by February 19, 2010. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, at least three most recent (from 2008 to 2009) writing samples (personally authored), a CNMI Application For Employment, a resume and other documents as listed on the employment application checklist and as requested. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

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Announcement No: **PSS-072-2006** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE** **(Amendment / Re-Announcement VII)**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00 - $65,000.00**
Opening Date: **February 5, 2010** Closing Date: **February 20, 2010**
Location: **PSS – OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Finance, and Accounting, or related field of study, plus five (5) years work experience and can either hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant; OR MA degree in Business Administration, Finance, and Accounting or related field of study, plus five (5) years related work experience, including three (3) years in Public auditing or Government auditing experience.

****The complete job description can be obtained at the PSS-Human Resources Office, 3rd Floor-Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill.**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX0 MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

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Announcement No: **PSS-2009-094** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **NETWORK SPECIALIST I – III (Amendment / Re-Announcement I)**
Pay Level/Step: **27, 29, 31 / 01 - 12** Per Annum Salary: **$19,511.46 - $40,531.43**
Opening Date: **February 2, 2010** Closing Date: **February 17, 2010**
Location: **PSS – ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Network Specialist I – Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with an AA / AS degree, plus one (1) year work related experience.
Network Specialist II – Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a BA degree, plus one (1) year work related experience OR AA / AS degree, plus three (3) years work related experience.
Network Specialist III – Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with an MA degree, plus five (5) years work related experience OR BA degree, plus seven (7) years work related experience.

****The complete job description can be obtained at the PSS-Human Resources Office, 3rd Floor-Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill.**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

China's Shen and Zhao win pairs gold

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Shen Xue beamed as she clutched the big shiny medal and husband Zhao Hongbo planted a kiss on her forehead.

The Chinese pair has stood on the podium many times in many different places.

Never on a stage like this.

Shen and Zhao won the Olympic gold medal that has driven them for nearly two decades Monday night, a prize tantalizing enough to lure them out of the cozy life of a happily retired married couple. It wasn't the best skate of their career—she tumbled onto his back during a lift—but it was good enough to win.

That's all that mattered.

"We've been in competitions for many years, and won other medals," Zhao said. "But every time we heard the national anthem and saw our flag being raised, we wished it was the Olympic Games. Today we've achieved our goal."

When they finished their program, Zhao knelt to the ice and buried his face in his hands while his wife patted his back. Their score of 216.57 points was more than three points better than teammates Pang Qing and Tong Jian.

It's the first gold in figure skating for China, and the second straight games the nation has won two of the pairs medals. The more shocking stat is that a Russian or Soviet couple didn't finish atop the Olympic podium for the first time since 1960, ending one of the longest winning streaks in sports.

Equally stunning, the Russians are leaving empty-handed, with no medals of any color.

"My belief is records are made to be broken," Zhao said.

Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy of Germany, winners of the last two world titles, managed only a bronze medal after a flawed free skate.

"I think everyone knows we're a little disappointed," Szolkowy said. "Our performance tonight was not the one we wanted to show."

For Shen and Zhao, it was the performance they had long imagined.

Bronze medalists at the last two Olympics, they retired after winning their third world title in 2007. They married, and lived the easy life of retirees, doing shows and appearances. But something was missing, and time was running out.

"So many years have been devoted to this dream," Zhao said.

They skated with the passion that has become their new trademark, the choreography of their "Adagio in G Minor" perfectly in tune to their music. She was so expressive, the audience could practically feel her every emotion.

And despite being veritable senior citizens at 31 (her) and 36 (him), they can still show the kids a thing or two. Their throw jumps were huge and flawless, the kind of tricks that would dazzle even the X-Games generation. Their throw triple salchow was so massive, she ought to get frequent flier points.

Shen and Zhao did make one mistake, and it was a shocker. She slipped down his back during one of their lifts, a move that's normally as easy as a crossover for them. The crowd gasped, and a look of exasperation crossed her face.

But they recovered quickly, and finished the program with a beautiful carry lift that circled half the ice. As they made their way off the ice, they detoured to the sideboards and Zhao practically leaped over them to hug longtime coach Yao Bin.

"It's been so many years," Zhao said, "to finally get this gold today is so exciting."

China's Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo pose on the podium after winning the gold medal in the pairs free program figure skating competition at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Monday, Feb. 15, 2010.

AP

For the Americans, it was their worst showing in pairs. Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig were 10th and U.S. champions Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett were 13th.

Pang and Tong were fourth after the short program. But while Savchenko-Szolkowy and Russia's Yuko Kavaguti and Alexander Smirnov stumbled, they soared.

Pang and Tong won the world title in 2006, but have struggled ever since to recapture that brilliance. Oh, did they pick the right place to do it, winning the free skate to claim the silver medal.

"Everyone's standards are very close," Tong said. "It's just that we performed a little better today."

That's putting it mildly.

Their athleticism is simply stunning, tricks that defy gravity and comprehension. He tossed her as easily as a pillow on their throw triple twist and she soared so high she probably could have changed a lightbulb or two in the arena. Their throw jumps were, by far, the best of the night, her blade carving the ice on the landings with the precision of a surgeon's knife.

But like Shen and Zhao, what's most impressive is how Pang and Tong's performance quality has grown. Their interpretation of "Impossible Dream" could play on any Broadway stage, and the flamenco portion of their program was pure sizzle.

"Every moment is perfection," Tong said.

They were beaming for the last 30 seconds, even while doing one of those scary lifts. When they finished, he bowed and kissed the ice.

"I don't know what got into me," Tong said.

Savchenko and Szolkowy were just .70 points behind Shen and Zhao after the short program, a margin so small the Germans could change the standings with just one element.

They changed all right.

Szolkowy, with a long history of botching jumps, had to fight to save the opening triple toe loop-double toe sequence. But he had no chance on their side-by-side double axels, drawing a gasp from the crowd as he fell to the ice—taking their gold medal hopes with him.

They were also noticeably out-of-sync on their combination spin; he came to an upright position while she was still turning, crouched low to the ice.

"It's the Winter Olympic Games, one long program in four years—of course you want to skate clean. And you have to skate clean if you want the gold medal," Szolkowy said. "This one chance we had, and maybe it's too much."

Any chance Kavaguti and Smirnov had of keeping that Russian winning streak going ended when she bailed out on their throw quadruple salchow and turned it into a triple. Not a good one, either, since she skidded and twisted across the ice on the landing.

Despite their low finishes—the best U.S. couple has always finished seventh or better—the inexperienced Americans showed promise. If they can improve their singles elements, they have a real shot at climbing the international ranks, maybe even as high as the medals podium in 2014.

Evora and Ladwig's signature carry lift alone is worth the price of admission. With her hands outstretched, he supports her one-handed for most of the lift. When he does finally use his second hand, it's only because he's picked up one foot and is skating backward. Try doing that on flat ground, let alone on a sheet of unforgiving ice.

But they need to clean up those side-by-side jumps and spins. Evora two-footed the first jump in their triple toe-double toe combo and he doubled it. She also turned out of the landing on their double axels. Denney and Barrett's side-by-side triple toes were downgraded to doubles, and each erred on their double axel sequence,

"It's an inspiration for me to see these Olympic champions, and what it takes is a lifetime of work and sacrifices," Evora said. "So we know there is still hope for us in the future."

In huge comeback, Wescott gets snowboardcross gold

WEST VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Six weeks ago, Seth Wescott couldn't walk.

On Monday morning, he couldn't see.

Big problems?

Not so much in the unwieldy, unpredictable sport of snowboardcross.

Wescott overcame long-term injury, a bad qualifying run and a massive deficit to Canada's Mike Robertson in the final Monday to win his second straight Olympic gold medal - an amazing comeback for a rider who came to Vancouver feeling like an old man, not the defending champion.

"As you get older in this sport," he said, "you have to learn to pick and choose your days."

What a day for the 33-year-old veteran from Maine, who qualified 17th of the 32 riders after a skid-out that left him complaining he was essentially "riding blind" through the slushy snow and flat light of weather-plagued Cypress Mountain.

What he saw about a third of the way down the hill in the four-man final was no better.

His teammate Nate Holland spun out, turning it into a three-man race—but really less than that. Robertson emerged untouched from the wreck and was basically out of Wescott's shouting range. The announcers on Canadian TV were practically awarding him the medal and had every reason to expect the country's second gold.

Wescott, though, is a veteran and a tactician—expecting to have to come from behind in a race where he had the worst starting position because of his low seeding from qualifying. He knew his chances would come near the end of the course, on Turns 5 and 6, then Nos. 7 and 8, so he bided his time and made up the gap.

Kept closing. And closing. Then took the lead and held it.

And it was the United States that ended up with its second gold of the Games, while Robertson settled for silver and France's Tony Ramoin took bronze.

"That kind of gap, most people—well, really, nobody, overcomes that," said America's snowboard coach, Peter Foley.

Not bad for a guy who had doubts about whether he would even make it after he jammed his femur into his pelvis in a race in December, an injury that was, he assures, every bit as bad as it sounds.

"Had never had that kind of pain in my pelvis before, and it was hard to know exactly what was wrong with me," Wescott said. "All of January and the tour through Europe was pretty depressing for me. Just a lot of pain."

Not so much, though, that he didn't at least think about victory.

He packed the neatly folded flag his father had given him for his celebration four years ago in Turin, gave it to a PR person for the U.S. Snowboarding team and asked her to have it handy at the finish just in case.

The flag, presented to Wescott's late grandfather years ago by the U.S. military, was draped around Seth's neck at the bottom of the hill, while he celebrated with his folks and his sister.

"That was part of the motivation to get to this moment," Wescott said. "I brought it so if I got to this moment, I'd have it here."

The second-place finisher, Robertson, said he thought he had the win sewn up. He had good reason as he flew over the bumps and jumps and ramps and didn't feel anyone near him—a rare sensation in a sport where contact is almost always a turn away. He mistimed one of five jumps that came in quick succession near the bottom and soon found himself being passed.

"I thought I was in control for sure," he said. "I thought I had a chance to win it. But as soon as I came up short on that jump, I knew someone was going to pass me."

James, Wade wait to see if help is coming

DALLAS (AP)—Electrifying as teammates for one night, imagine LeBron James and Dwyane Wade together for an entire season.

At least one of them does.

"We can dream, can't we?" Wade said. "I dream."

After watching them Sunday night in the All-Star game at Cowboys Stadium, who wouldn't? Well, except rival coaches.

"I don't think you needed to see tonight to understand that that would scare any of us in this league," Eastern Conference coach Stan Van Gundy said.

Wade scored 28 points and was the MVP, James added 25 and the East beat the West 141-139 before 108,713 fans, the largest crowd ever to attend a basketball game.

A James-Wade partnership could happen, but that wouldn't be until the summer. In the meantime, one or both of them still could get some All-Star caliber help.

The NBA trade deadline is Thursday, with Cleveland and Miami among the teams most frequently appearing in the usual mid-February speculation. And for the second consecutive year, much of it focuses on Amare Stoudemire of Phoenix.

The Cavaliers and Heat both have been linked to the All-Star forward, a terrific Plan B if neither can make a James-Wade tandem happen.

"I'm aware of the talk just like everybody else," James said. "I've been a part of guys getting traded to our team and getting traded away from our team. I never get caught up into it until I know or hear from our coaching staff or GMs that the deal has actually happened."

Stoudemire seemed to acknowledge the trade talk surrounding the Cavs in a post on his Twitter feed Monday night, defending his play with Shaquille O'Neal when the Cleveland center was with Phoenix last season.

"I play very well with Shaq. I adverage (sic) more pts last year WITH him an (sic) played better D," Stoudemire tweeted. "You guys can stop saying we don't play well together."

The Cavaliers may not need a deal after rolling into the break with a 13-game winning streak and an NBA-best 43-11 record, even without the injured Mo Williams. But they also want to show James they are totally committed to winning before he becomes a free agent this summer, and there's still some improving that can be done.

Cleveland thought it had a team that could win last season, but Orlando exploited its lack of athleticism at the power forward spot in the Eastern Conference finals. A player such as Stoudemire or Washington's Antawn Jamison could fill that void.

AP

East All-Star LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers hugs Dwyane Wade of the Miami Heat after the East beat the West 141-139 in the NBA All-Star basketball game Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010, at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Miami needs a little of everything after reaching the break in seventh place in the East with a 26-27 record. Wade has warned the Heat his decision to stay this summer will be based on whether he believes his team can compete for the championship.

"I haven't been following it too much. I always know that when trade deadline comes, the city of Miami is going to be in something because it's a very attractive city, so automatically our name is going to come up," Wade said Friday. "But I'm a believer you wait for things to happen before you go too much into it."

Some recent deadline days have been duds, but more teams could have incentive to deal this year. There's a chance to save money for owners who are losing millions, or the opportunity to position themselves to be buyers in what's expected to be a stellar free-agent class.

Dallas jumped on a Washington team looking to cut payroll during a disastrous season by acquiring two-time All-Star Caron Butler and center Brendan Haywood in a seven-player deal Saturday. If the Wizards keep cutting, Jamison also could be moved this week.

The second half begins again with the NBA dreaming of a Cavaliers-Lakers final that would deliver a highly anticipated matchup between Kobe Bryant and James—this time even bigger with the inclusion of Shaquille O'Neal, too.

The Lakers won their last three before the break and will be even stronger once Bryant returns from an injured left ankle that forced him to skip the All-Star game.

"Hopefully I'll be—I'll definitely be—healthier than I was the last month, so that's a plus," Bryant said.

Those teams have the same pursuers as a year ago. Denver is running second in the West, while Orlando trails Cleveland just in front of Atlanta and Boston, which has to hope Kevin Garnett stays healthy and Ray Allen relocates his shot.

There's plenty more in the final two months of the season.

Kevin Durant tries to beat out James and Carmelo Anthony for the scoring title and lead surging Oklahoma City to its first playoff berth. The New Jersey Nets, 4-48 at the break, hope to find a spark that can help them avoid the worst finish in NBA history.

And the stories don't end this season once a champion is crowned. Free agency begins July 1, with James and Wade looking to cash in—perhaps together.

"He's a great player and tonight he showcased why he's one of the best players on the planet," James said. "You want to play with guys that are great and want to win and want to compete at a high level every night. We'll see."

Mavs look drastically different after break

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks would like to host another big-time NBA event this season. So they made some changes.

With the record-breaking All-Star weekend in their back yard over, the Southwest Division-leading Mavericks will begin the final 30-game stretch of the regular season Tuesday night looking much different than they did when losing five of seven games before the break.

A seven-player weekend trade brought two-time All-Star guard Caron Butler, 7-foot center Brendan Haywood and guard DeShawn Stevenson to Dallas from Washington. Often promising and disappointing Josh Howard was sent with Drew Gooden and two others to the Wizards.

"Now I don't know how many of you out there are going to pick us in a seven-game series against the Lakers, but in our opinion the guys in that locker room, we're ready to lock horns with anybody," Mavericks president of basketball operations Donnie Nelson said. "We feel like this solidifies us a little bit."

Enough to think about the possibility of playing Los Angeles in a Western Conference final? Or getting back to the NBA Finals four years after blowing a two-game lead and losing in six games to Miami?

"We'll find out," owner Mark Cuban said. "You just never know until you get out there and play, and if we can get back to where we were early in the season and get healthy. ... I think we're better."

The Mavericks (32-20) still lead their division despite a slump before the break that included a 36-point loss to Denver, one of the three teams ahead of them in the West, in their last game.

"We were struggling here for a month, so we are excited now to have some new guys," All-Star forward Dirk Nowitzki said. "It's not going to be an easy ride, but we are looking forward to coming together quick and hopefully finish the season strong."

The Mavericks will have to assimilate the newcomers without a practice. The three could only watch Monday's workout because of a paperwork delay, coach Rick Carlisle said. Assuming the all-clear comes Tuesday morning, the former Wizards will go through a shootaround and then straight into their first game with Dallas at Oklahoma City.

An opening stretch of four games in five nights against probable playoff teams continues Wednesday night at home against Phoenix. After a day off, another back-to-back set comes at Orlando and home against Miami.

"It's a situation that's not ideal, but we're going to make it work," Carlisle said. "These guys will adjust."

Butler, who has averaged 16.9 points a game in his eighth NBA season, is expected to move into the Mavericks' starting lineup. Jason Terry, who last year got the NBA sixth man award as the league's top reserve, is expected to move back into that role after starting the past 11 games.

Terry said he could accept going back to the bench, and Butler said that "meant a lot."

"Me and (Terry), we are familiar with one another," Butler said. "He's always been like a big brother to me. He's just making the transition real smooth for me."

Kobe Bryant of the Lakers, who because of a sore left ankle didn't play in the All-Star game before the record crowd of 108,713 at Cowboys Stadium on Sunday night, said Butler will be a good addition for Dallas. They were teammates with the Lakers in 2004-05.

"You put him on a contender and I'm telling you, you're going to love him," Bryant said. 'He's tough as nails."

Haywood provides needed depth in the middle behind Erick Dampier, who missed three of four games before the break. That forced Gooden, now headed to his eighth team in eight seasons, to fill that role much more than planned when Dallas signed him last summer.

"We were running into problems. Damp is having problems with his knees and requires rest every now and then, and we really were in a spot without having a shot-blocker behind him," Cuban said. "Drew did a great job, he laid it out there every game for us to try to go in as a five. Going into the season, we thought that would work, and it just didn't play out as planned."

The Mavericks also envision using Dampier and Haywood together to match up against other teams using two big men.

Howard had spent his entire career with Dallas, playing 431 games since being the 29th overall pick in 2003. The team's second-longest tenured player behind Nowitzki, Howard played only 31 games with nine starts this season after being limited the first couple of months while recovering from offseason surgery on his left ankle.

SURVIVORS

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ter fielder Brandon Dela Cruz added two RBIs and scored four runs. Starting pitching Ian Lizama also made four runs, while right fielder Haini Blas and left fielder Frankie Norita contributed two runs apiece.

SENIORS
Kagman Lions 14, D-9ers 3

In the first Seniors game, Kagman Lions crushed D-9ers, 14-3.

The Lions defense shut out D-9ers in the first three innings and the latter never recovered from thereon.

Dominic Chargualaf started for Kagman Lions and had seven strikeouts in four innings pitched. He walked three, allowed two hits, and gave up only one run.

Colin Cruz took over in the last two innings, struck out two, walked three, allowed one hit, and gave up two runs.

On offense, Greg Iskawa made four runs for the Lions, while shortstop Ricardo Dela Cruz delivered three RBIs on a 3-for-5 stint at the plate.

Hunters 7, Hustlers 6

In the second Seniors game, center fielder Joseph Palacios blasted a three-run homer at the top of the third inning to give the Hunters a 7-6 win over the Hustlers.

The Hunters trailed, 3-6, after two complete innings when Palacios hit his target and brought Alex Lopez and Palmersson Monkeya home with his round-tripper to tie the game, 6-all. Leroy Regis reached home plate on a wild pitch to put the Hunters in the lead, 7-6.

The Hunters kept the lead and the win when they shut out the Hustlers in the last four innings with Joseph Atalig pitching and striking out eight.

MACARANAS

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California, and three shots off runner-up Bryan Teon Wiyang's 156. The CNMI junior golfer's third place finish in the Callaway Futures Champions allowed him to surpass his performance in the same event last year. Macaranas only finished fourth in 2009 after tallying a two-day total of 178.

When he returned to the Arnold Palmer-designed course, Macaranas got off to a sluggish start, firing a 44 on the front and 42 on the back for a 14-over par 86 in the first round on Saturday (Sunday on Saipan). The best he could do in the first round was a birdie on the par-5, 437-yard hole No. 5. He saved par on nine holes, but had either bogeys or more than double bogeys in eight other holes. At the end of the first round, he was tied for ninth place with California's Carter Plousha and Salinas's Hansi Hell.

Then came Macaranas' major comeback in the second round on Sunday (Monday on Saipan), as he shot the second round's best and tournament's best round score of 1-under par 73. In the second and final round, he saved par on five holes, made lesser bogeys/double bogey with six, and tallied six birdies.

"In the final hole, I hit 300 yards, facing a greenside bunker, shot 45 inches from the pin and I stuck the ball pin high, but slowly rolled eight inches away and made eight-inches birdie putt," Macaranas said of his success on the No. 18, 315-yard hole.

His other birdies came on holes No. 4, 5, 6, 12, and 13.

"In my first birdie, I made a 12-inch birdie putt and dedicated it to my Mom as a Valentine's gift. Later, I pledged each birdie to my family members and even painted a giant red heart on my golf ball which I will keep as a souvenir," Macaranas said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* Monday.

"I signed and submitted my scorecard and as I saw my name on the top of the leaderboard and everyone at the club house was amazed at my low score. I then waited for the last two groups to finish their round. I needed the final group to score in the 80s to take the championship, but Charles Reiter and Bryan Teoh Wiyang scored a 75 and 78, respectively, and I ended up in third place," Macaranas said.

Reiter and Wiyang saved first and second place, respectively, as they had betters scores than Macaranas in the opening round. Reiter had an 80 in the first round, while Wiyang of Malaysia tallied a 78.

"I received a world championship trophy, which is actually a miniature glass earthly replica. I remember saying where Saipan is on the trophy," the junior golfer added.

The weekend tournament drew 30 junior golfers from various U.S. states, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Canada.

VOLLEYBALL

From Page 28

sion, so here we are. Therefore, it is our recommendation that no indoor volleyball teams be sent to Palau," White said, reading from NMIVA's statement.

NMIVA president Laurie Peterka provided *Saipan Tribune* a copy of the statement, which stated the association made repeated attempts to get updates from IVC before the NMASA meeting on Feb. 4, but to no avail. An e-mail to IVC president Jonas Barcinas asking for comments has yet to be answered as of press time.

At the NMASA meeting, NMIVA and other sports federation were asked of their commitment to send athletes to the Micro Games. In the same meeting, associations sending athletes are required to make the first installment fee of $175/per delegate. The cost of the Palau trip is $950, but athletes are charged only $750, as NMASA will shoulder the remaining amount. The $750 is divided into four installment payments, starting this month until May.

"As of today (yesterday), nothing has changed from the NMIVA board's position. However, I did receive an inquiry from someone who asked if it is too late to organize and send beach teams. They asked what would be required of them should they decide they want to take the lead. I explained and I wasn't left with any indications from this conversation that anything has changed…but I wouldn't rule out the possibility that another group will come back and ask us to reconsider," Peterka said.

NMASA president Michael White, in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, said the CNMI has until the end of this month to tell organizers in Palau which sports organizations are sending athletes to the Micronesian Games.

Swimming, table tennis, lawn tennis, athletics, and sailing have already paid the first installment fee. Basketball and baseball, which are both group sports and will be needing a huge sum of money, are given an indefinite extension. The CNMI is the defending champion in baseball, women's basketball as well as lawn tennis, and table tennis.

"Baseball and basketball have been given an indefinite extension, because of the obvious difficulty in raising money for 25 people or more. The board will continue to monitor the situation and work with both of these federations. All other federations which have expressed an interest in participating have either made the required deposit or have made satisfactory arrangements to do so within the very near future," White said.

Included in these associations is the Saipan Adventure Sports Club (formerly Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation).

SASC president Russ Quinn said interested members have until Feb. 20 to inform the club if they are interested in representing the CNMI to the Micro Games. He added, they are looking to send three male triathletes and one female to Palau.

"If there are more individuals interested in the slots, they must qualify for the spots. The Tagaman will be a qualifier for those slots," Quinn said.

"Once the team has been selected, a training schedule must be provided to SASC board members so they may inform NMASA. The individual, not SASC, will be responsible for coming up with the funds for the Palau trip, but SASC will support any fundraising events the team comes up with," he added.

White said NMASA is hoping the CNMI will send triathletes to the Games.

"We are counting on fielding a strong triathlon team," the NMASA president added.

The Micro Games will be held form Aug. 1 to 10.

MBI

From Page 28

Pro Plus.

Ivan De Vero, who missed MBI's second game, reported back for duty and made his presence felt anew, firing 32 points. His 16 second-quarter points helped MBI recover from a 13-16 deficit and take a 40-29 halftime lead.

Bank of Guam held the driver's seat at the end of the first period behind the seven points apiece of Jason Taisacan and Dexter Mendiola. Taisacan then went scoreless in the second period, while Mendiola tallied only four markers and was the lone player of BoG to make more than a field goal in that period.

De Vero outscored the entire BoG crew, 16-13, to give MBI an 11-point halftime cushion. MBI made it a 69-52 lead at the end of the third canto with De Vero teaming up with Pando Muleta and Noel David in the breakaway. David scored 10 points in the third canto, while De Vero and Muleta chipped in eight and seven, respectively.

MBI slowed down in the fourth quarter, but still maintained the lead and notched its third straight title, as Bank of Guam failed to make a big run in the payoff canto. BoG dropped to a 0-2 record.

In the second game, Glenn Aquino scored 22 points to keep Aqua's unbeaten record in two games.

Aquino was scoreless in the first period, which had Aqua leading by only four, 21-17. He began hitting his mark in the second quarter, nailing seven points, as Aqua slowly increased the lead at the break, 47-38.

AON tried to hang in there, making repeated comeback bids in the second half, but could not break the six-point barrier. To make things worse for AON, gunner Bon Tamayo cramped in the last two minutes, limiting the team's offensive option.

Besides Aquino, Aqua had other players to go to on offense. One of them was Jessie Mina, who tallied 18 points. Gil Gapor added 14, Ziddy Johanes made 12, while Pete Lizama and Mike Achas drilled eight apiece.

Leo Factor led AON's losing cause, making 24 points, while Jorge De Guzman contributed 21. AON had only five players making it to the scoreboard, dropping the team to a 0-2 record.

First Game

MBI 85 – De Vero 32, Muleta 19, David 16, Barbo 6, Nonato 4, Cordero 2, Penalosa 2, Achas 2, Musni 2.

Bank of Guam 75 – Taisacan 22, Peters 16, Mendiola 15, Pelismen 14, Palacios 8.

Scoring by quarters: 13-16, 40-29, 69-52, 85-75.

Second Game

Aqua Resort 92 – Aquino 22, Mina 18, Gapor 14, Johanes 12, Mi. Achas 8, Lizama 8, Mc. Achas 6, Acosta 2.

AON/NJ Pro Plus 80 – Factor 24, De Guzman 21, Tamayo 18, De Dios 9, Catalla 5.

Scoring by quarters: 21-17, 47-38, 65-57, 92-80.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	18	.640	–
Toronto	29	23	.558	4
Philadelphia	20	32	.385	13
New York	19	32	.373	13 1/2
New Jersey	4	48	.077	29

Southeast Division

Orlando	36	18	.667	–
Atlanta	33	18	.647	1 1/2
Charlotte	26	25	.510	8 1/2
Miami	26	27	.491	9 1/2
Washington	17	33	.340	17

Central Division

Cleveland	43	11	.796	–
Chicago	25	26	.490	16 1/2
Milwaukee	24	27	.471	17 1/2
Detroit	18	33	.353	23 1/2
Indiana	18	34	.346	24

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	32	20	.615	–
San Antonio	30	21	.588	1 1/2
Houston	27	24	.529	4 1/2
New Orleans	28	25	.528	4 1/2
Memphis	26	25	.510	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	35	18	.660	–
Utah	32	19	.627	2
Oklahoma City	30	21	.588	4
Portland	31	24	.564	5
Minnesota	13	40	.245	22

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	41	13	.759	–
Phoenix	31	22	.585	9 1/2
L.A. Clippers	21	31	.404	19
Sacramento	18	34	.346	22
Golden State	14	37	.275	25 1/2

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	54	545	422	1612	29.9
Durant, OKC	51	500	442	1517	29.7
Anthony, DEN	40	398	332	1168	29.2
Bryant, LAL	51	527	302	1426	28.0
Wade, MIA	53	498	354	1404	26.5
Ellis, GOL	48	494	225	1259	26.2
Nowitzki, DAL	51	445	338	1257	24.6
Bosh, TOR	52	452	358	1268	24.4
Johnson, ATL	51	432	146	1100	21.6
Stoudemire, PHX	53	422	280	1124	21.2
Jackson, CHA	51	387	213	1066	20.9
Maggette, GOL	47	312	343	977	20.8
Randolph, MEM	51	421	197	1045	20.5
Evans, SAC	47	348	235	955	20.3
Kaman, LAC	46	380	159	919	20.0
Lee, NYK	51	428	162	1018	20.0
Gay, MEM	49	373	187	971	19.8
Rose, CHI	51	421	153	1000	19.6
Boozer, UTA	48	371	188	930	19.4
Duncan, SAN	48	367	195	929	19.4

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	221	360	.614
Howard, ORL	315	524	.601
Hilario, DEN	283	478	.592
Gasol, MEM	281	478	.588
Millsap, UTA	233	409	.570
Bynum, LAL	305	537	.568
Horford, ATL	283	503	.563
Haywood, WAS	188	335	.561
O'Neal, CLE	228	408	.559
Lee, NYK	428	768	.557

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	54	192	528	720	13.3
Camby, LAC	51	166	450	616	12.1
Noah, CHI	46	176	376	552	12.0
Randolph, MEM	51	221	369	590	11.6
Bosh, TOR	52	158	437	595	11.4
Lee, NYK	51	130	453	583	11.4
Wallace, CHA	49	100	434	534	10.9
Boozer, UTA	48	96	423	519	10.8
Duncan, SAN	48	154	360	514	10.7
Haywood, WAS	49	200	307	507	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Nash, PHX	53	587	11.1
Williams, UTA	46	449	9.8
Rondo, BOS	49	475	9.7
Kidd, DAL	51	472	9.3
James, CLE	54	449	8.3
B. Davis, LAC	52	412	7.9
Westbrook, OKC	51	382	7.5
Wade, MIA	53	345	6.5
Duhon, NYK	51	320	6.3

NBA ALL-STAR GAME RESULTS

2010	East 141, West 139
2009	West 146, East 119
2008	East 134, West 128
2007	West 153, East 132
2006	East 122, West 120
2005	East 125, West 115
2004	West 136, East 132
2003	West 155, East 145, 2OT
2002	West 135, East 120
2001	East 111, West 110
2000	West 137, East 126
1999	No game.
1998	East 135, West 114
1997	East 132, West 120
1996	East 129, West 118
1995	West 139, East 112
1994	East 127, West 118
1993	West 135, East 132, OT
1992	West 153, East 113
1991	East 116, West 114
1990	East 130, West 113
1989	West 143, East 134
1988	East 138, West 133
1987	West 154, East 149, OT
1986	East 139, West 132
1985	West 140, East 129
1984	East 154, West 145, OT
1983	East 132, West 123
1982	East 120, West 118
1981	East 123, West 120
1980	East 144, West 136, OT
1979	West 134, East 129
1978	East 133, West 125
1977	West 125, East 124
1976	East 123, West 109
1975	East 108, West 102
1974	West 134, East 123
1973	East 104, West 84
1972	West 112, East 110
1971	West 108, East 107
1970	East 142, West 135
1969	East 123, West 112
1968	East 144, West 124
1967	West 135, East 120
1966	East 137, West 94
1965	East 124, West 123
1964	East 111, West 107
1963	East 115, West 108
1962	West 150, East 130
1961	West 153, East 131
1960	East 125, West 115
1959	West 124, East 108
1958	East 130, West 118
1957	East 109, West 97
1956	West 108, East 94
1955	East 100, West 91
1954	East 98, West 93, OT
1953	West 79, East 75
1952	East 108, West 91
1951	East 111, West 94

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S CAGING STANDINGS

MBI	3	0
Fiesta Resort	2	0
TBK	2	0
Advance	2	0
Aqua Resort	2	0
Shirley's	1	1
Pacific Islands Club	0	0
Docomo/SGH	0	0
Mobil	0	1
Hard Rock	0	1
McGraw-Hill	0	1
AON/NJ Plus	0	2
Bank of Guam	0	2
Pepsi	0	2
CellULAR Pro	0	2

PILCOWA Basketball League Awards Night

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Noni Saipan owner Ta Bun Kuy, second right, receives the open division championship trophy from PILCOWA league organizers and supporters during the awards ceremony at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Regular season MVP awardee Wowie Abuel of Noni Saipan.

University of Loyola owner Jonny Fong holds the runner-up trophy the team won in the masters division.

Ebisuya's Marvin Deocares, left, is all smiles, as he receives the Coach of the Year award from the Philippine's new labor attaché for the CNMI, Carmelina R. Francisco-Velasquez.

Sonny Ebuen of fourth placer Wushin Corp., left, shakes hands with the Philippine's new labor attaché for the CNMI, Carmelina R. Francisco-Velasquez.

Ernie Moises, second right, on behalf of IT&E receives the fourth place trophy in the open division.

Cool Water's Joseph Galulu, left, receives the masters third place trophy from Philippine's new labor attaché for the CNMI, Carmelina R. Francisco-Velasquez.

Bernard Montano, second right, receives the open division third place trophy for Diamond Ali'i.

Winners in statistical race in the masters division pose for a group photo with league organizers and supporters.

Members of open division runner-up Saipan Fresh Market receive their trophy.

James, Wade wait to see if help is coming

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Sports

China's Shen and Zhao win pairs gold

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Survivors slip past A's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Relief pitcher Jose Lizama Jr. made eight strikeouts, lifting Survivors to a 5-2 win in a low-scoring game against the Athletics in the Juniors division of the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball competition on Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Lizama came in for starting pitcher A.G. Roppul at the start of the fourth inning and quickly struck out Athletics leadoff batter A.J. Cabrera. Lizama, who is on his first year in the Juniors division, went on to strike out seven more batters, walked two, and allowed only one hit. No Athletics batter went past second base with Lizama on the mound and Survivors defense active in the last four innings.

Athletics scored their two runs at the top of the first on a Survivors error and a Darrel Muna sacrifice fly.

On offense, Lizama scored three runs, two off errors from the Athletics and one off Desmond Abraham's single. Abraham and Livan Reyes also reached home plate once off Athletics miscues.

Northern Juniors 13, Kagman Juniors 5

In the other Juniors division game, Northern Juniors topped Kagman Juniors, 13-5.

Third baseman Jeremy went 3-for-4 at bat and scored one triple and three RBIs to lead Northern Juniors to their debut win. Cen-

See SURVIVORS on Page 26

Survivors' Jose Lizama Jr. catches a throw from Nick Jones Jr. during their game against the Athletics in the Juniors division of the SLLB on Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MBI takes solo lead, Aqua triumphs anew

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Aqua Resort Club's Gil Gapor goes for a reverse layup against AON/NJ Pro Plus' Jorge De Guzman during their game in the Shirley's caging on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It's three in a row for defending champion Micronesian Brokers, Inc., while Aqua Resort Club notched back-to-back wins in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

MBI's latest victim was Bank of Guam with the former's 85-75 giving the defending champion the solo lead in the 15-team field. Aqua improved to a 2-0 record, following a 92-80 triumph over AON/NJ

See MBI on Page 26

Macaranas saves 3rd place in World Championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior golfer R.J. Macaranas landed a spot in the Top 3 of the Callaway Future Champions Golf World Championship after a strong finish in the weekend tournament played at the DoubleTree Golf Resort in San Diego, California.

Macaranas carded a two-day total of 159, only four strokes behind top finisher Charles Reiter (155) of

See MACARANAS on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's R.J. Macaranas, right, poses with the four other winners in the Callaway Future Champions Golf World Championship played at the DoubleTree Golf Resort in San Diego, California, over the weekend.

No volleyball teams in Micro Games, triathlon still in

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association would not be sending teams in beach and indoor volleyball competitions to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, while a triathlon squad is still in for the quadrennial meet.

In NMASA's monthly meeting, NMIVA through Gabriel White delivered the bad news, saying after constant communication with Island Volleyball Club, IVC failed to submit a revised and detailed proposal about forming indoor volleyball teams.

"We made the decision to give IVC the chance to take the lead in organizing indoor teams for the Micro Games after they made extensive and concerted efforts to show us that they were serious about taking a leadership role. Because of their passion for the sport, we wanted to give them a chance. Unfortunately, the time has come to make a deci-

See VOLLEYBALL on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players in action in an indoor volleyball tournament played at the Marianas High School late last year. The CNMI would not be sending indoor volleyball teams to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.